4
寺嶋裕二
ダイヤのA
エース

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●掲載／週刊少年マガジン
2006年第47号～2007年第4・5合併号

この物語はフィクションであり、
実在の人物・団体・出来事などとは、
一切関係ありません

CHAPTER 23/SELLING POINT

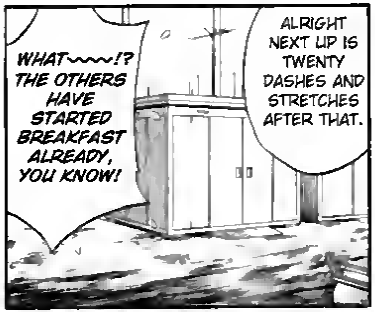
GOOD MORNING!
CHRIS-SENPAI!
THE WEATHER'S GREAT TODAY!
...
SFX: HA! HA! HA!
ARE YOU UP FOR SOME CATCH BEFORE BREAKFAST?
Freaky 97
AHH ~~~ I REALLY FEEL LIKE PITCHING A FEW!
BRUSH
BRUSH
YEAH... YOU FEEL REFRESED FIRST THING IN THE MORNING~~~
FINE, I'LL GO PRACTICE WITH YOU A LITTLE, GO WARM-UP
SQUEAK!
SHUUUSSSH

I GUESS THAT REALLY WAS TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR.
HAHA...
WHA-?
WHAT... NOT LIP TO IT?
NO... IT'S NOT THAT I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D ACTUALLY AGREE TO IT!
JUST GO AND GET READY!
JERK!
STRETCH...
STRETCH...

PANT
PANT

I'LL LEAVE IF YOU KEEP TALKING RUBBISH.
I'LL BURN OUT BEFORE PITCHING A SINGLE BALL.
HOW MUCH LONGER MUST I RUN?

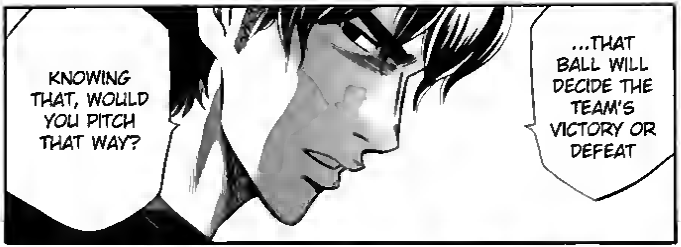
I CAN'T MAKE ANY SENSE OF WHAT'S HE'S TRYING TO SAY...
Heave-
Heave-


WHAT~~~!? THE OTHERS HAVE STARTED BREAKFAST ALREADY, YOU KNOW!
ALRIGHT NEXT UP IS TWENTY DASHES AND STRETCHES AFTER THAT.

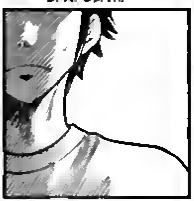
DON'T THINK YOU CAN ALWAYS STEP ONTO THE PITCHER'S MOUND IN YOUR BEST FORM.

RIGHT... I THINK WE'RE READY TO START..
PUNCH
PUNCH
SFX: RUSTLE RUSTLE
THE BOTTOM OF THE NINTH INNING, TWO OUTS, BASES LOADED, 2-3 COUNT
A SINGLE-HIT WALK-OFF HOME RUN SITUATION...
WHAT WOULD YOU PITCH?

OR RATHER, THAT'S THE ONLY ONE I USE!!
OF... OF COURSE IT'LL BE MY ULTIMATE THROW, THE STRAIGHT OVER CENTER SLAMMER.


KNOWING THAT, WOULD YOU PITCH THAT WAY?
...THAT BALL WILL DECIDE THE TEAM'S VICTORY OR DEFEAT

SFX: SLAM!



NOD

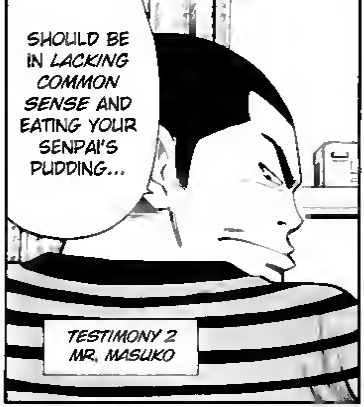
OKAY... THEN TRY AND PITCH ONE...
EH? BUT YOU'RE NOT WEARING ANY PROTECTIVE GEAR?
DON'T WORRY... I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO PITCH RIGHT INTO MY MITT.
SLIDE
Ba-Bump!
THE BOTTOM OF THE NINTH INNING TWO OUTS BASES LOADED
IN THIS SITUATION THE ONLY THING I CAN DO IS...
TO TRUST MY TEAMMATES, AND PITCH WITH ALL MY MIGHT, ISN'T IT?

SFX: SLAM!
UWAA...
MUSIC TO MY EARS!!

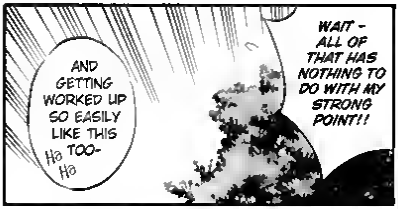
WHY...!?
THAT WAS A GOOD BALL...
A FOR-EIGNER !?
BECAUSE THE BATTER WAS BARRY BONDS
THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A HOME RUN JUST NOW -
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE HOME RUN THAT MASUKO BATTED WITH BRUTE FORCE?
WHY DIDN'T YOU TRY AND FIND OUT WHO THE BATTER WAS BEFORE PITCHING?
YOU CAN'T PITCH FAST BALLS LIKE FURUYA
NOR CAN YOU PITCH CURVE BALLS LIKE TANBA.
SFX: WHACK! SWOOSH!

WHAT'S YOUR STRONG POINT?
Freaky 97
MY... STRONG POINT?

HEY! WAIT A SECOND!
IT'S OVER ALREADY!?
Man, that was fast
GO THINK ABOUT IT.
Hurrying off
SO WHAT IS MY STRONG POINT?
.....
MY STRONG POINT——..
Freaky 97


SHOULD BE IN LACKING COMMON SENSE AND EATING YOUR SENPAI'S PUDDING...
TESTIMONY 2 MR. MASUKO
THAT HAS TO BE YOUR STUPIDITY RIGHT?
Frankly
TESTIMONY 1 MR. KUROMOCHI

HURR
HRNN
HRY?
Take Hah!
MN... MN... LACKING IN COMMON SENSE AND STUPIDITY...

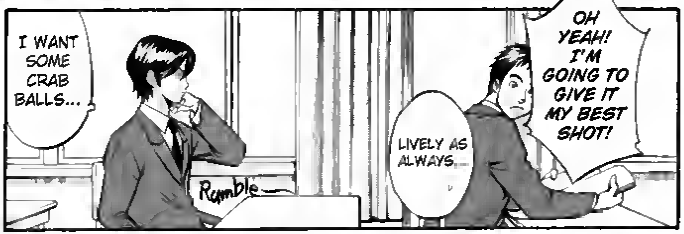

AND GETTING WORKED UP SO EASILY LIKE THIS
Ha TOO- Ha
WAIT - ALL OF THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MY STRONG POINT!!

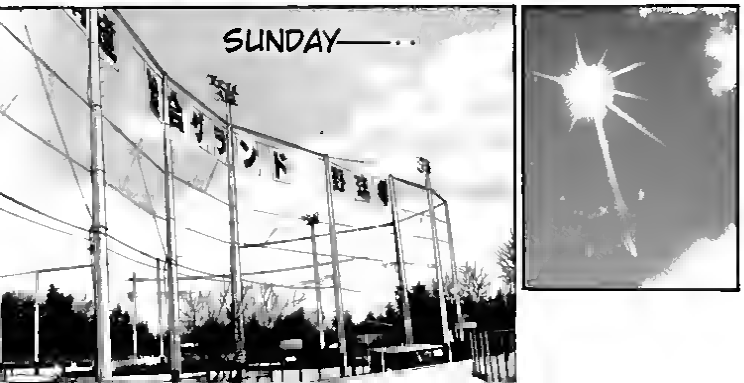
YOU'RE CLUELESS ABOUT BASEBALL
AND YOU SUCK AT GAMING
YOUR JOINTS ARE EXTREMELY SOFT AND FLEXIBLE
YOU WON'T TELL ME WAKANA-CHAN'S MOBILE NUMBER

MN... WHEN DEFENDING IT'S REALLY INTEREST-ING...
Because a lot of balls fly all over the place
EIJI-KUN'S STRONG POINT?
TESTIMONY 3 MR. KOMINATO
COME TO THINK OF IT, A BASE ON BALLS HAS NEVER BEEN CREDITED AGAINST YOU.
BASE ON BALLS...
PITCHING RHYTHM...?
ISN'T THAT PRETTY IMPRES-SIVE?
COULD THAT BE MY STRONG POINT...
I'LL BE SETTING MY MITT RIGHT HERE
THAT PITCHING RHYTHM MAKES IT EASY FOR US OUTFIELDERS TO DEFEND.

OH YEAH... HAVE YOU HEARD THE LATEST NEWS ABOUT THE FIRST STRING?
HUH?
RIGHT NOW THE FIRST STRING HAS A TOTAL OF 18 MEMBERS,
AND THE COMPETITION BETWEEN THESE REGULARS IS PRETTY FIERCE.
SUPER Baseball Studies
BUT THE TOKYO TOURNAMENT HAS AN ENTRANCE LIST OF 20 MEMBERS,
WHICH MEANS, THAT BEFORE SUMMER TWO MEMBERS OF THE SECOND STRING WILL ADVANCE INTO THE FIRST STRING!
FOR REAL?
YEAH! SO THE UPCOMING PRACTICE MATCHES ARE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO SHOWCASE OUR ABILITY.
WHAT!
...TWO MEMBERS?
YEAH, TWO OF US!

MWAHAHA...
WE'RE ADVANCING TO THE FIRST STRING!
OI... IT ISN'T CONFIRMED YET...

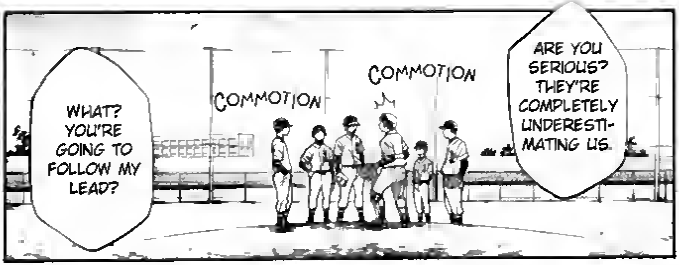

I WANT SOME CRAB BALLS...
Rumble
LIVELY AS ALWAYS...
OH YEAH! I'M GOING TO GIVE IT MY BEST SHOT!


SUNDAY——...

A GROUNDS
SEIDOU (FIRST STRING) VS. TEITOU
SFX. AAAAA
SFX. WHACK!
SOAR, BABY!
SFX. TTTTTTTTTTTTT-

SFX. WHACK!
B GROUNDS
SEIDOU
(SECOND STRING)
VS. KOMASHIRO
TEAM 1 2
eitou 0
eidou 3
THREE CONSECU-TIVE BASES!!
HERE IT COMES, HERE IT COMES, HERE IT COMES -
SFX. WAA-
THE SPIRIT OF THE THIRD YEARS IS ASTOUND-ING!
HAVE THEY ADVANCED TO A HIGHER LEVEL AFTER THAT MATCH WITH YOKOGAKU!?

AND TO TOP THAT OFF, THAT PITCHER'S A FIRST YEAR!
ARE THEY LOOKING DOWN ON US?
HMPH... TEITOU GETS TO PLAY AGAINST THE FIRST STRING, BUT WE'RE PLAYING AGAINST THE SECOND?
KOMA


WHAT? YOU'RE GOING TO FOLLOW MY LEAD?
COMMOTION
COMMOTION
ARE YOU SERIOUS? THEY'RE COMPLETELY UNDERESTIMATING US.

THIS IS A LITTLE AWKWARD..
GRIN
THIS GUY... IS HE FOR REAL?

HEH HEH HEH

THAT SIMPLY MEANS...
AND SINCE I WANT TO ADVANCE IN THIS TEAM

WHAT? YOU'RE GOING TO FOLLOW MY LEAD?
YUP... WHEREVER YOU DIRECT YOUR STANCE IS WHERE I'LL PITCH.

I NEED TO MASTER CONTROL!
THAT SIMPLY MEANS THAT.
TAKE THAT!
AFTER THIS MATCH, I'LL DEFINITELY BECOME STRONGER!

SFX: WHACK!
WASN'T THAT JUST A STRAIGHT OVER CENTER BALL!?
WHAT "WHATEVER YOU DIRECT YOUR STANCE IS WHERE I'LL PITCH"-
HEY-! THAT PITCHER'S A DORK!
IS HE REALLY A SEIDOU PLAYER?
KOMA
What?
WHAT'S WITH THAT WEAK PITCH...

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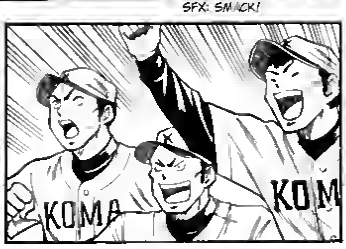
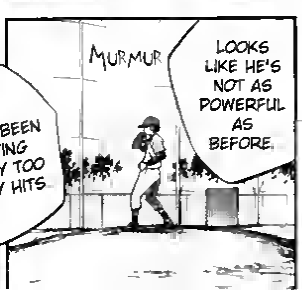
CHAPTER 24/ TO THE MOUND

SFX: SMACK!


SFX: SMACK!
KOMA
KOMA

I GOTTA SAY HE'S LOOKING BELOW AVERAGE, MAN.
MURMUR
MURMUR
TOKYO

WHAT THE...? THAT GUY. HE WAS THE ONE WHO WAS PITCHING AT THAT RED-WHITE GAME RIGHT?


MURMUR
LOOKS LIKE HE'S NOT AS POWERFUL AS BEFORE.
HE'S BEEN GIVING AWAY TOO MANY HITS.

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
Huff
Huff
IT SHOULDN'T BE HIT
AS LONG AS I AIM AT THE MITT,
Right at the mitt...
OH YEAH, PERFECT PITCH!

YEAH, IT'S GONE!
GO, GO!
KOMA
SFX SMACK!
WHO PUT ON SUCH A CRAPPY PITCHER!?
SEIDOU IS NOTHING LIKE WHAT THEY SAY!
DON'T FUCKING DISS US BECAUSE WE'RE FROM TOKYO!
TOKYO
TIME OUT, PLEASE!
HE'S TOTALLY LOST IT.
WON-DERFUL
HEY!

YOU! WHAT THE FUCK IS THAT SHITTY PITCHING!?
HUH?
青道
SFX: GRAE
WHAT!? TO THE MITT!?
I WAS JUST TRYING TO PITCH TO THE CATHER'S MITT...
NO... I...
STOP IT, MAEKEN...
TAKE OFF THAT UNIFORM RIGHT NOW!
OF COURSE THEY'LL HIT A STUPID PITCH LIKE THAT!
WE HAVE OTHER PITCHERS !!!
KENTA MAEZONO (2ND YEAR)

IT'S NOT REALLY FUN COVERING FOR YOU TODAY, EIJUN-KUN ...
EVEN IF IT IS A SECOND STRING GAME, WE CAN'T BE EMBARASS-ING...
THERE IS A LOT OF HISTORY IN THIS UNIFORM, LIKE PRIDE AND GLORY OF OUR SENPAI...
Naaaaa.....
ATARU NAKATA (2ND YEAR)
YOU SHOULD GET BACK ON THE BENCH AND COOL YOUR HEAD OFF ...
SAWA-MURA--KUN ...
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE !!!
I AM SERIOUSLY THINKING ABOUT ...
!

WE ARE SWITCHING THE PITCHER.
GET OFF THE MOUND RIGHT NOW.

SFX: WAAAAA (CROWD CHEERING)
YOU WERE TOO CONCERNED ABOUT THE CONTROL AND LOST THE PITCHING POWER.

YOUR STRAIGHT PITCH DOESN'T EVEN REACH 130KM.
OF COURSE THEY CAN HIT THEM.
I TOLD YOU THAT YOU ARE DIFFERENT FROM FURUYA AND TANBA ...
THEN WHAT THE HELL IS MY STYLE?
SFX AAAAH!
REMEMBER YOUR LOSS TODAY.
THEN YOU CAN IMPROVE MUCH MORE.

BUT... IF YOU COULD BE PATIENT AND FOCUS ON YOUR FUNDAMENTALS RIGHT NOW ...
ONE CANNOT LEARN THESE THINGS THAT EASILY.
PRECISE CONTROL AND A FASTER PITCH.
YOU WILL DEFINITELY BE ABLE TO MAKE THE BEST OUT OF YOUR OWN STYLE.
SFX. WAAAAA!

SFX: THUD!!

WOW!
TEITO
TEITO
TEITO
HOW COULD A FIRST YEAR PITCH THAT!?
WASN'T THAT OVER 150 KM!?
WHA.. WHAT IN THE HELL IS THAT!?
SFX CHUUU!
HIS NAME IS BECOMNG THAT WIDESPREAD, HUH?
HA HA! THERE ARE MORE SPIES EVERY DAY
HEY, MAKE SURE YOU RECORD THAT!
ALL THEY GOT IS A STRAIGHT PITCH!! THERE'S GOTTA BE A WAY TO BEAT IT!

SORRY
I NEED A TIME OUT ...
WHAT'S UP? WE AREN'T EVEN IN TROUBLE
DO YOU NEED TO CONFIRM THE SIGN?
CLONK
CLONK
...
YOU! YOUR HAND!
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
DO YOU THINK SOMETHING HAPPENED?

青

HIS SUPER FAST PITCH IS THROWN BY FOCUSING ALL HIS WEIGHT ONTO HIS FINGER TIP...
IS THIS THE PRICE HE PAYS FOR THAT?

I'D NEVER GUESSED HE HAD SUCH A WEAK POINT...
HIS FINGER TIP CAN'T HANDLE IT ANY MORE.
DON'T LICK A ROSIN COVERED HAND.
S
青道

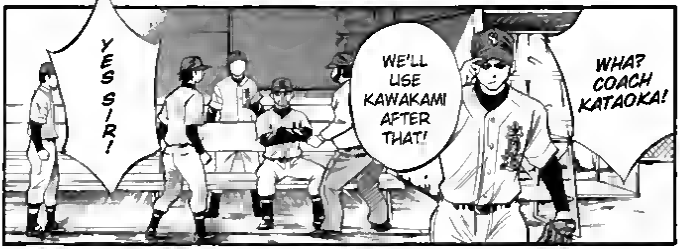
I DON'T WANT THE SPIES TO SEE IT.
HEY, GET BACK ON THE BENCH WITHOUT ANYONE SEEING YOUR HAND!
HE'S ONLY PITCHED TWO INNINGS
WOW, WHAT'S GOING ON? SWITCHING THE PITCHER?
JUST GET BACK!
EH? BUT I CAN STILL ...
HEY! KAWAKAMI ...
MURMUR
MURMUR
COACH ...
WARM UP RIGHT NOW!
Y.. YES, SIR!

I AM READY !!
SFX TA-DAAA

TANBA... YOU PITCHED AT YESTERDAY'S MATCH.
YOU MIGHT BE READY, BUT TODAY

YES SIR!

FINE. YOU MAY GO!
BUT THREE INNINGS ONLY.


YES SIR!
WE'LL USE KAWAKAMI AFTER THAT!
WHA? COACH KATAOKA!

THE FINGERTIP IS THE LIFE OF A PITCHER ...
IT PROVES THAT YOU ARE NOT TAKING CARE OF IT ON AN EVERY DAY BASIS.

I CAN STILL PITCH.

YOU HURT YOUR NAILS? FURUYA

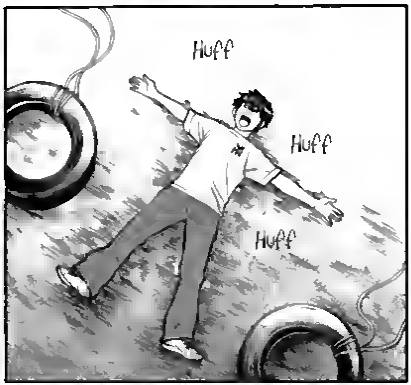
FOR TWO WEEKS, YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE IMMERSED IN PITCHING!
RUN WITH THE SECOND STRING !!!
SFX. CROWD CHEERING
BUT ... COACH !!!
FRESH FIRST YEARS WITH A FUTURE.
THEIR DRIVE THIS SUMMER IS ...
NOTHING COMPARED TO THE GRADUATING THIRD YEARS ...

I GUESS THE POSITION OF ACE IS TOO MUCH FOR A FIRST YEAR.
WHAT KIND OF CURVE BALL IS THAT?
DAMN ....
SPK THUD!
Oooooooh
hhhhhhhhh!
AT THIS STAGE, HIS CURVE BALL IS GETTING BETTER AND BETTER
THIS IS WHAT THE PLAYERS IN THEIR LAST YEAR CAN DO HUH?

YOU'RE GETTTING BETTER QUICKLY, HUH?
GRIN
LET THEM HIT A FEW, TANBA!
Ha
YO!! IT'S BORING OVER HERE IN THE OUTFIELD!
青道
TURN
BUT DON'T YOU PANIC!
SMILE
LOOKS LIKES YOU ARE FINALLY REALIZING THAT YOU ARE THE ACE.
SFX: CROWD CHEERING
SFX: THUD!
SHIT...
STRIKE! BATTER, OUT!

Huff
Huff

BUT... IF YOU COULD BE PATIENT AND FOCUS ON YOUR FUNDAMENTALS RIGHT NOW..
YOU WILL BE DEFINITELY BE ABLE TO MAKE THE BEST OUT OF YOUR OWN STYLE.


Huff
Huff
Huff

BUT HE STILL HASN'T TAUGHT ME WHAT MY OWN STYLE IS
Sigh

HUP
LOOKS LIKE THEY REALLY WORKED YOU OVER.
55
WHAT ??
YEAH.... SUCH A BEAUTIFUL MOON TONIGHT.
....
WHAT IN THE HELL DID HE COME HERE FOR?
Si—lence
...
FRUS-TRATING, ISN'T IT?
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
THERE IS NO MOON !!!!
ISN'T IT FREAKING CLOUDY?
サランド

I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW FRUSTRATING IT IS TO BE REMOVED FROM THE MOUND WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO SHOW ALL MY SKILLS...
...
TRUST-WORTHY BACKFIELD.
A TRUST-WORTHY CATCHER.

I THINK THE ONE WHO IS CHOSEN TO BE THE PITCHER FOR THAT TEAM IS TRULY BLESSED.

IF YOU AREN'T GOING TO USE THAT TIRE ANYMORE, CAN I BORROW IT?
WHAT?

YUP. THE FIRST STRING IS REALLY A GREAT PLACE TO PLAY.
YOU! AREN'T YOU JUST BRAGGING, YOU JERK!

HUH?

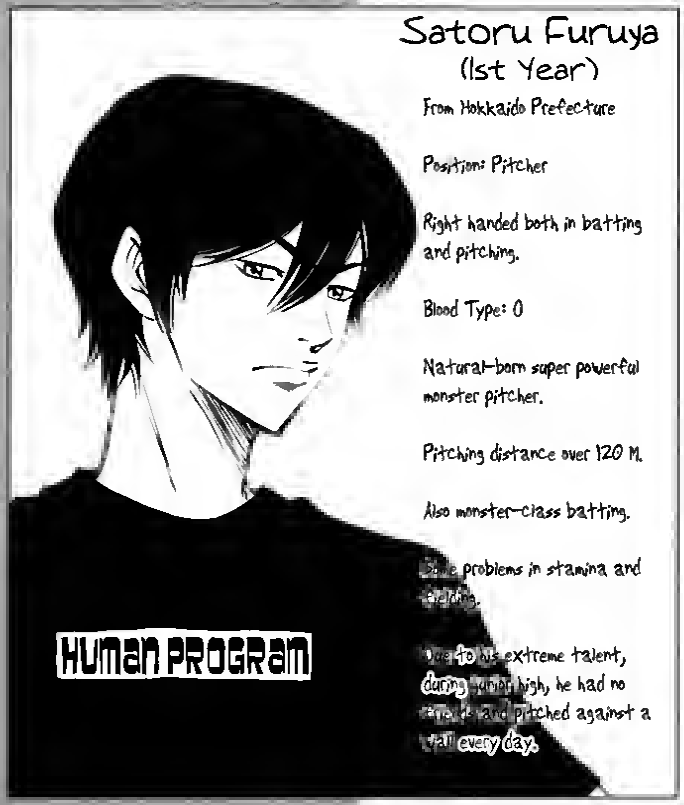
HEY, THERE IS SOMEONE IN THE GROUND THIS LATE.
WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY DOING WITHOUT LIGHTS?

THIS IS MY PARTNER!
I WON'T LET ANYONE TOUCH IT!
DOESN'T IT BELONG TO THE SCHOOL ANYWAY?
NEVER!

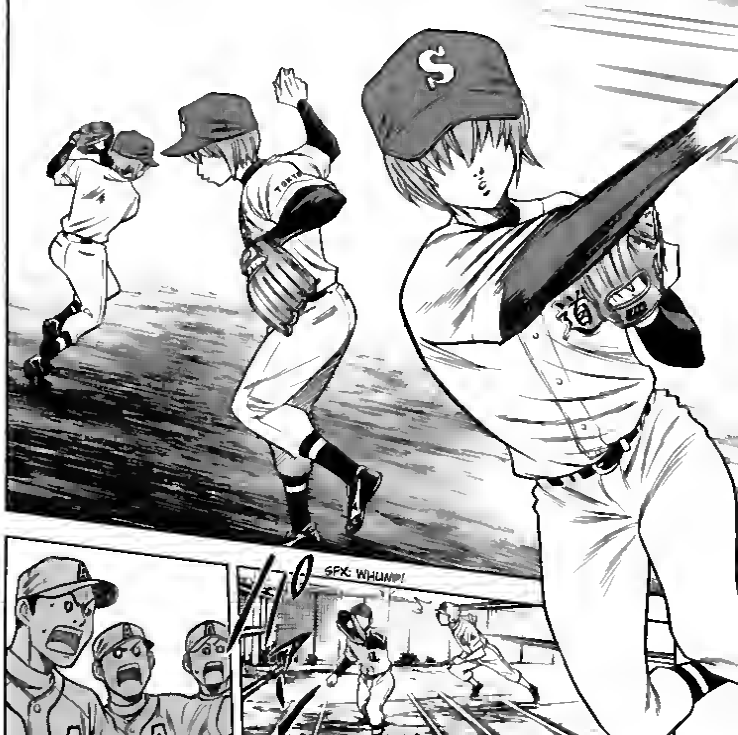
WHAT?
I FOUND A BIGGER ONE OVER HERE ...
WAHAHA~~~ TAKE IT IF YOU CAN~~~
ONE'S ENOUGH
LET'S RACE WITH THREE!
I'LL NEVER LOSE TO YOU!!
NOT MUCH TIME LEFT IN THE RACE FOR THE FIRST STRING ...
AAAA, YOU'RE SO SLOW...
WAIT ...
AH! CAN YOU KEEP UP WITH ME!?
ONLY ONE AND A HALF MONTH BEFORE THE SUMMER PRELIMENARY

SEIDOU PLAYER ENCYCLOPEDIA

Vol.3


Satoru Furuya
(1st Year)
From Hokkaido Prefecture
Position: Pitcher
Right handed both in batting and pitching.
Blood Type: O
Natural-born super powerful monster pitcher.
Pitching distance over 120 M.
Also monster-class batting.
Some problems in stamina and fielding.
Due to his extreme talent, during junior high, he had no friends and pitched against a wall every day.
HUMAN PROGRAM

4TH WEEK OF MAY...
SEIDOU (SECOND STRING)
VS. ASAKURAKITA
Ace of Diamond
SFX THROUGHOUT PAGE: WAAAA~
SFX. WOOSH!
SFX. WHACK!
AWESOME! IT GOT THROUGH!
HURRY! RUN!
DASH


SFX: WHUMP!

WOAAAAH... IT WAS INTERCEPTED!
STRUT STRUT
THREE OUTS - CHANGE!
TOKYO

青道総合グ
ISN'T HIS DEFENSE RANGE JUST TOO DAMN WIDE?
IS HE REALLY A SECOND STRING PLAYER?
SEIDOU'S PLAYER LEVELS ARE REALLY UNFATHOM-ABLE!
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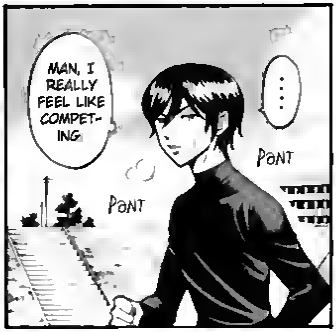
CHAPTER 25/ POLISH THE IDIOSYNCRATICAL BALL

SFX. WAAA-
青道


MAN, I REALLY FEEL LIKE COMPET-ING.
PONT
PONT

THIS BOY HAS AMAZING BASEBALL SENSE...
IN TERMS OF DEFENSE, HE CAN HOLD HIS OWN AGAINST HIS BROTHER RYOUSUKE.

THE ONE WHO'S RISING TO FIRST STRING IS ME!
TOKYO

THERE ARE ONLY TWO POSITIONS OPEN IN THE FIRST STRING ...
SO I CAN'T LEAVE ANY SLACK ...

DID I USE TOO MUCH FORCE?
WHAT'S GOING ON?

THUD!

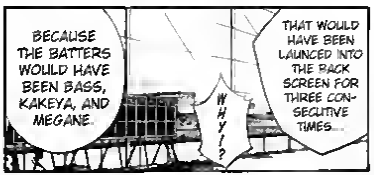
SFX: WAAAA-

WHOM!

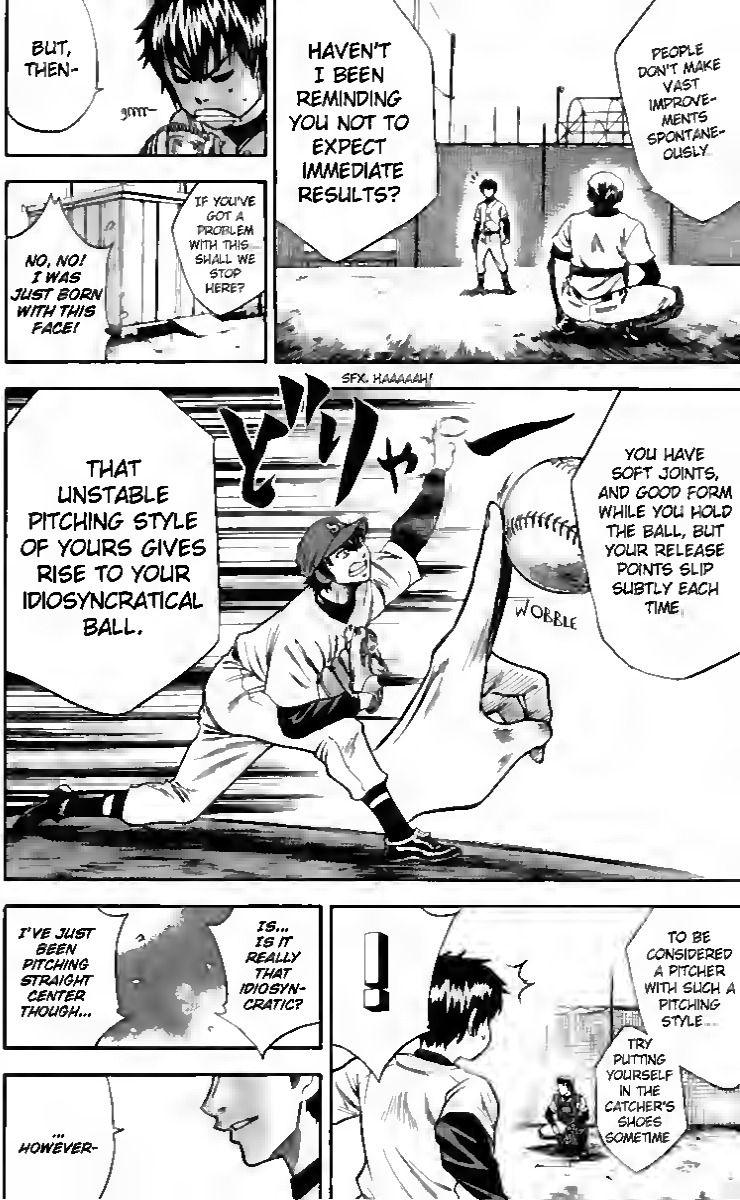
TEAM
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
Seidou
1
0
3
0
Asakura
0
2
0
0

SWISH
TWEEEEEEEEEEEE

SFX. WHAM!
HOW ABOUT THAT BALL, HUH?
You can feel the difference!


BECAUSE THE BATTERS WOULD HAVE BEEN BASS, KAKEYA, AND MEGANE.
WHY!?
THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN LAUNCED INTO THE BACK SCREEN FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE TIMES.

BUT THEY MADE SUCH A GOOD SOUND WITH THE MITT!


BUT, THEN-
HAVEN'T I BEEN REMINDING YOU NOT TO EXPECT IMMEDIATE RESULTS?
PEOPLE DON'T MAKE VAST IMPROVEMENTS SPONTANEOUSLY.
IF YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH THIS... SHALL WE STOP HERE?
NO, NO! I WAS JUST BORN WITH THIS FACE!
SFX. HAAAAAH!
どりゃー
THAT UNSTABLE PITCHING STYLE OF YOURS GIVES RISE TO YOUR IDIOSYNCRATICAL BALL.
YOU HAVE SOFT JOINTS, AND GOOD FORM WHILE YOU HOLD THE BALL, BUT YOUR RELEASE POINTS SLIP SUBTLY EACH TIME.
WOBBLE
I'VE JUST BEEN PITCHING STRAIGHT CENTER THOUGH...
IS... IS IT REALLY THAT IDIOSYNCRATIC?
...HOWEVER-
!
TO BE CONSIDERED A PITCHER WITH SUCH A PITCHING STYLE...
TRY PUTTING YOURSELF IN THE CATCHER'S SHOES SOMETIME

THAT IDIOSYNCRATIC BALL IS YOUR SELLING POINT ...
WHA?
...
GATHERING ALL YOUR BODY STRENGTH IN YOUR FINGER-TIPS AND RELEASING IT
RESULTS IN THE HEAVY AND RAPID FASTBALL OF FURUYA'S

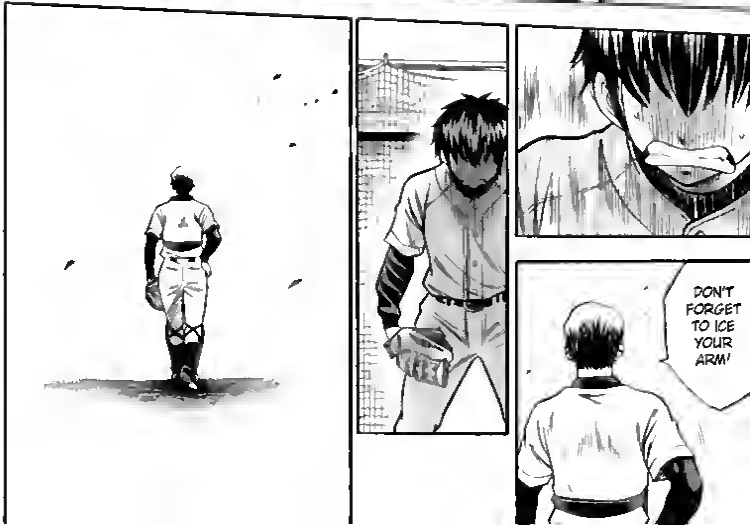
RESULT IN YOUR EVER-CHANGING, UNPREDICTABLE BALLS, THAT MAKE UP YOUR IDIOSYNCRATICAL PITCHING STYLE.
IN CONTRAST, THE SUBTLE SLIPS ALONG YOUR FINGERTIPS
!
PERHAPS UP TILL THIS POINT, YOU'VE BEEN RELYING ON THIS STYLE...
BUT AGAINST THE WIDE RANGE OF THE METAL BATS THAT ARE USED IN HIGH SCHOOL, SUCH BALLS WILL BE STRUCK OUT EASILY.
FOR SOMEONE WHOSE BALLS DON'T HAVE MUCH FORCE AND WHO DOESN'T HAVE THE APTITUDE TO CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF HIS PITCHES...
IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE HERE, THE ONLY WAY OUT FOR YOU IS.

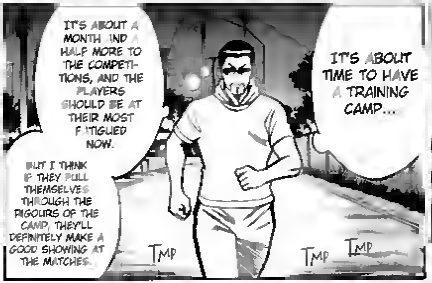
TO POLISH THIS IDIOSYN-CRATICAL BALL OF YOURS!
Badump!

IF YOU BUILD ON THE CORE STRENGTH OF YOUR BODY, AND IMPROVE THE POWER OF YOUR BALLS
YOUR PITCHES SHOULD BE A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH.
Badump!
HANG ON...
THAT MEANS FROM THE START...
THAT MENU WAS MADE WITH THIS ISSUE OF MINE IN CONSIDERATION?
YOUR AIM IS TO BE AN ACE RIGHT?
STAND

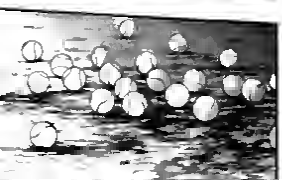
IF IT'S MIYUKI, I'M SURE THAT HE'LL BE ABLE TO CATCH ANY IDIOSYNCRATIC BALL.
TOKYO
THIS IS THE BEST ADVICE I CAN GIVE YOU.
AS A THIRD YEAR WHO'S ABOUT TO RETIRE ...
WHAT ABOUT YOU CHRIS-SENPAI?
B BUT

HAVE A BIT OF PATIENCE AND MAKE YOUR WAY UP,
YOU STILL HAVE A WAYS TO GO.


DON'T FORGET TO ICE YOUR ARM!


IT'S ABOUT A MONTH AND A HALF MORE TO THE COMPETITIONS, AND THE PLAYERS SHOULD BE AT THEIR MOST FATIGUED NOW.
BUT I THINK IF THEY PULL THEMSELVES THROUGH THE RIGOURS OF THE CAMP, THEY'LL DEFINITELY MAKE A GOOD SHOWING AT THE MATCHES.
IT'S ABOUT TIME TO HAVE A TRAINING CAMP...
TMP
TMP
TMP

THUD!

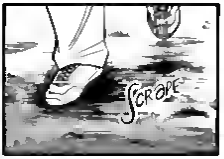


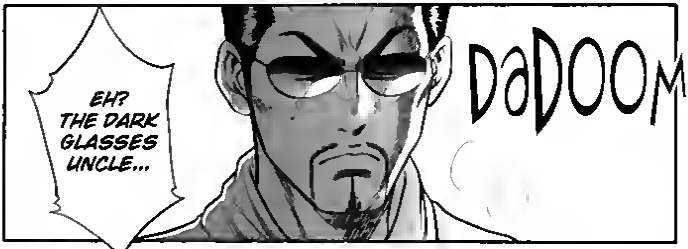
THUD!

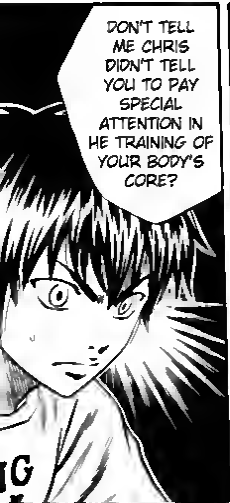
THUD!
CRICK
CRICK
CRICK
CRICK

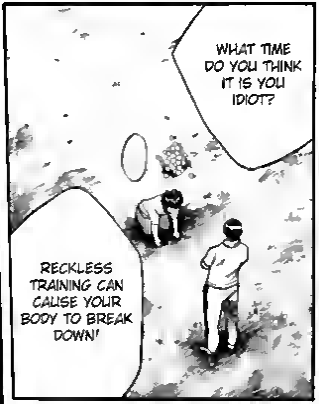
YOUR FORM IS COMPLETELY ERATIC
AND WHEN YOU TRY TO PITCH FASTBALLS, YOUR MOVEMENTS BECOME TOO WIDE...

JUST TEN MORE BALLS...


SCRAPE


EH? THE DARK GLASSES UNCLE...
DaDOOM

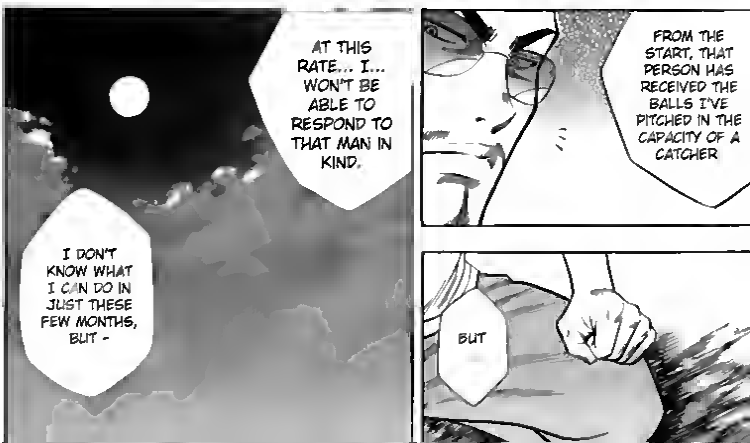

DON'T TELL ME CHRIS DIDN'T TELL YOU TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION IN HE TRAINING OF YOUR BODY'S CORE?


WHAT TIME DO YOU THINK IT IS YOU IDIOT?
RECKLESS TRAINING CAN CAUSE YOUR BODY TO BREAK DOWN!

AH... NO... YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HARD COACH

IT'S TRUE THAT A LOT OF PLAYERS, UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND CHRIS' EXPECTATIONS, GIVE UP PITCHING
BUT BASED UPON HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, THAT METHOD OF HIS THAT EMPHASIZES THE TRAINING OF THE BASICS...
I THINK IT'S COMPLETELY VALID.

IF YOU'VE GIVEN UP ON BECOMING A PITCHER,
THEN IT'S BEST TO BREAK UP YOUR CURRENT PARTNERSHIP WITH HIM.


FROM THE START, THAT PERSON HAS RECEIVED THE BALLS I'VE PITCHED IN THE CAPACITY OF A CATCHER
AT THIS RATE... I... WON'T BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO THAT MAN IN KIND.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I CAN DO IN JUST THESE FEW MONTHS, BUT -
BUT

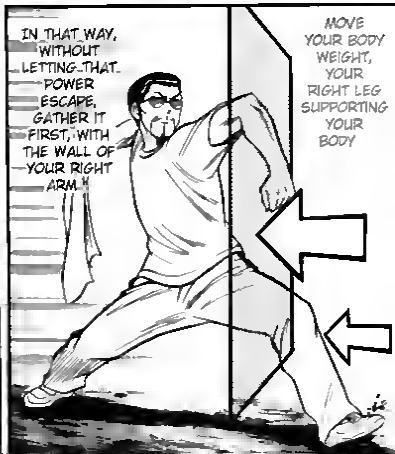
BEFORE THAT MAN RETIRES
EVEN IF IT'S JUST A LITTLE, I WANT TO SHOW HIM THE IMAGE OF MY GROWTH.
SLIP
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE MATTER THAT THERE ARE ONLY TWO PLAYERS WHO CAN ADVANCE INTO THE FIRST STRING FROM THE SECOND.
HONESTLY...
WHAT A SURPRISING GUY...
IN ANY CASE, STOP PITCHING RECKLESSLY.
FROM NOW ONWARDS, ANY VOLUNTARY PRACTICE SHOULD BE DONE WITH A TOWEL TO PERFORM SHADOW PITCHING
Bicycle

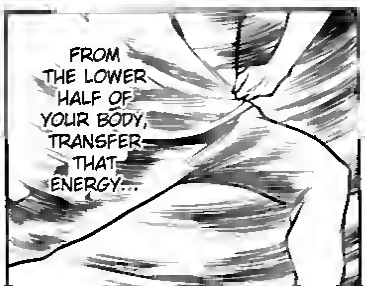
HUH?

THE CRUCIAL FACTOR IS THE HAND THAT'S IN THE MITT.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND... NO MATTER HOW FORCEFUL YOUR THROW IS, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO INCREASE THE SPEED OF YOUR BALL.

A SOFT PAW LIKE YOURSELF SHOULD FORM A WALL WITH HIS RIGHT ARM
TO BE ABLE TO TRANSFER ALL YOUR BODY FORCE INTO YOUR FINGERTIPS

ARCH IT LIKE A DRAWN BOW, AND WHEN THE TENSION IS AT ITS LIMIT TURN YOUR BODY INTO A VACUUM.


IN THAT WAY, WITHOUT LETTING THAT POWER ESCAPE, GATHER IT FIRST, WITH THE WALL OF YOUR RIGHT ARM.
MOVE YOUR BODY WEIGHT, YOUR RIGHT LEG SUPPORTING YOUR BODY


FROM THE LOWER HALF OF YOUR BODY, TRANSFER THAT ENERGY...

Let it fly!
SFX: BWOOOSH!
BaDump
WITH THE WALL OF THE RIGHT HAND
AND THE VACUUM OF THE BODY...
TRY IT.
BWOOSH
BWOOSH
BWOOSH
AMAZING...
THIS WIND...

I'LL REFINE THAT IDIOSYNCRATIC BALL!
NGH!
SFX WHAP!
LET IT FLY ...
FORM A WALL WITH MY RIGHT HAND.
Ruuuuuumble
NOT ON PUR-POSE
IT DEFI-NITELY WASN'T ON PURPOSE
AAAAH! SOOOR-RRRRRY !!
URGH!

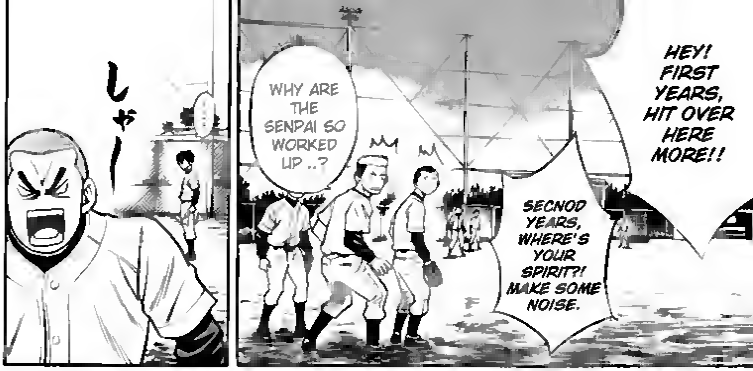
Chapter 26 / We can't quit now!

WITH THAT SLUG, IT'D BE A WASTE TO KEEP HIM ON THE BENCH.
WHO KNEW HE COULD BAT SO WELL...
REALLY... THAT KID'S ABILITIES ARE UNBELIEV-ABLE
I WANNA PITCH SOON
MAN.

LET'S TRY FOR A HOMERUN NEXT
THAT FEELS GOOD!
THIS GUY IS HITTING TO LEFT FIELD, CENTER FIELD AND RIGHT FIELD IN SEQUENTIAL ORDER
THAT'S RYOUSUKE'S LITTLE BROTHER. LOOKS LIKE HE'LL BE PROMOTED TO FIRST STRING!
WHOOM
THESE GUYS ARE TOO STRONG.
HOW CAN THEY BAT LIKE THAT?! THEY'RE ONLY FIRST YEARS!
BUT WE CAN'T EVEN GET ON THE BENCH AT SEIDOU.
WHOOM
WE USED TO BE TEAM LEADERS AT OUR MIDDLE SCHOOLS.
I HATE IT WHEN NEW GUYS JOIN EVERY YEAR.
DAMMIT...
WHAT'S MORE, THOSE GUYS ARE MONSTERS..

THEY WORK HARDER THAN ANYONE. WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE.

WE'RE NO MATCH FOR THEM.
BUT EVERYONE STILL PRACTICES WITH EVERYTHING THEY'VE GOT.
WE DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANY REGRETS.
EVEN IF WE CAN'T PLAY IN A MATCH, WE STILL WANT TO FIGHT ON WITH THESE GUYS.
おおおお
I NEVER GOT A GIRLFRIEND IN THESE THREE YEARS...
WE CAN'T QUIT NOW!
QUITTING MEANS THAT WE WASTED THREE YEARS OF HARD WORK.
SHOOT!! WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT THAT!
...
WELL, WE JUST WANNA SAY...


しゃー!
WHY ARE THE SENPAI SO WORKED UP ..?
HEY! FIRST YEARS, HIT OVER HERE MORE!!
SECNOD YEARS, WHERE'S YOUR SPIRIT?! MAKE SOME NOISE.

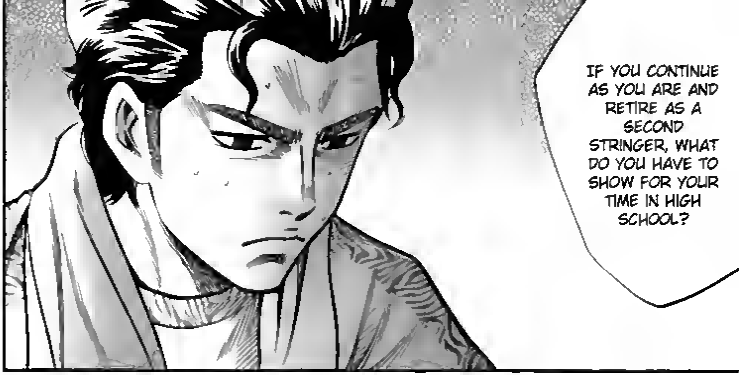
I WON'T TELL YOU HOW WE SUFFERED THESE THREE YEARS.
PITCHERS STAND ON THE PITCHER'S MOUND CARRYING THE HOPES OF ALL THOSE WHO CAN'T GO ON THE FIELD.

I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE TO ANYONE!!
I CAME HERE TO BE THE ACE!
DAMMIT... I'M SO ASHAMED OF WHAT I SAID...

I HAVEN'T EARNED ANY RESPECT.
A TRUE ACE IS RESPECTED BY HIS TEAMMATES.
SAWAMURA, I'M OFF.
CONCENTRATE THE BODY'S POWER!!
MY RIGHT HAND FORMS A WALL!
USE PRACTICE MENU B TODAY.
DO THREE SETS OF EACH ITEM ON THE MENU!
OK!
THANKS FOR EVERY-THING!

八 九 十 計
THAT METHOD OF TRAINING WITH THE TOWEL... MAYBE HE THOUGHT OF IT HIMSELF...
HIS BALANCE IS IMPROVING.
HE HASN'T BEEN ASKING ME TO CATCH FOR HIM LATELY...
He actually feels a little lonely
MAYBE THE PRACTICE MENU I DESIGNED FOR HIM REALLY SUITS HIM.
AH, THAT WAS PROBABLY A GOOD PITCH.

WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF YOU QUIT THIS SCHOOL?
I SHOULDN'T BE SAYING THIS AS A FATHER, BUT
HEY, YUU...
THE JAPANESE STILL PLACE SUCH GREAT IMPORTANCE ON SPIRIT.
YOUR SHOULDER'S ALMOST COMPLETELY HEALED.
BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT MANY OF YOUR TEAMMATES DISLIKE YOU.
ACTUALLY, I WISH I COULD FORCEFULLY REMOVE YOU FROM YOUR CURRENT TEAM
SUCH A SITUATION WOULD NOT HAPPEN IN AMERICA.
AT KOSHIEN, THE PITCHER IS EXPECTED TO PLAY SO MANY MATCHES IN THE SCORCHING SUMMER HEAT.


IF YOU CONTINUE AS YOU ARE AND RETIRE AS A SECOND STRINGER, WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SHOW FOR YOUR TIME IN HIGH SCHOOL?

I'VE SPOKEN TO MY ALMA MATER ABOUT YOUR SITUATION.
YOU CAN GO TO AMERICA ANYTIME YOU WISH.

OH!
YOU'RE USING MY TIRE!

DON'T USE MY TIRE! GIVE IT BACK!
.....
AND THAT'S MY STYLE!
WHOLE-HEARTEDLY TRYING TO GET INTO THE STARTING LINE-UP...
YOU'VE BEEN WANTING TO MIMIC ME ALL THIS TIME!
YEAH...
SEEING THEM IS LIKE SEEING OUR OLD SELVES.
TANBA...

CAN YOU HELP CHECK MY PITCHING FORM?
I ALWAYS LOSE CONTROL OF THE BALL AFTER PITCHING MORE THAN 70 BALLS.
SURE
IT ISN'T EASY TO KEEP YOUR PLACE IN THE STARTING LINE-UP, HUH?
HOW'S YOUR SHOULDER?
ALMOST RECOVERED YET?
ヒュ
ヒュ
WHIP
CAN YOU RECOVER BEFORE SUMMER?
IT'S THANKS TO YOU SPOTTING MY INJURY EARLY,
THAT I'M STILL PITCHING TODAY.
ど

SO YOU MUST RETURN TO THE FIRST STRING!
IF I KEEP WINNING ANOTHER MATCH, THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT CAN BE STRETCHED OUT LONGER,
YOU KNOW AS WELL AS ANYONE ...

I HAVEN'T PLAYED FOR A YEAR. ON TOP OF THAT, I'VE BEEN LEAVING PRACTICE EARLY...
THERE'S NO WAY SEIDOU WOULD ALLOW SOMEONE LIKE ME ON THE FIELD.
...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SAID THAT. YOU'RE ALWAYS SO NERVOUS
I'D WORRY MORE ABOUT YOU HOLDING ON TO YOUR POSITION IN THE STARTING LINE-UP
IF YOU CONTINUE AS YOU ARE AND RETIRE AS A SECOND STRINGER, WHAT HAVE YOU TO SHOW FOR YOUR TIME IN HIGH SCHOOL?
FATHER, YOU MAY BE RIGHT,
BUT...
SHUT UP! I WON'T GIVE UP MY POSITION TO ANYONE!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!!!

WITH THE TEAMMATES WHO'VE STRUGGLED WITH ME ALL THIS TIME.
I WANT TO RETIRE HAPPILY
FATHER ...
THOSE GUYS ARE ALSO CAPABLE OF LAUGHING SO HAPPILY...
...

First week of June
DRAW BACK THE GLOVE HERE
AND PITCH TIGHTLY.
DRAW BACK A LITTLE; PITCH TIGHTLY.
LET'S SHORTEN IT TO "DRAW BACK PITCH!"
WHAT?
WHISH
SAWAMURA, WE'VE DECIDED THAT YOU'RE PITCHING IN THE NEXT GAME
FINALLY, I GOT IT!!
AHAHA-HAHA. GOT IT!
WHAT'S THAT IDIOT UP TO? WE CAN SEE EVERYTHING HE'S DOING.
HERE'S YOUR LAST CHANCE TO GET INTO THE FIRST STRING.
DO YOUR BEST; DON'T HAVE REGRETS!

THEN THE 20 PLAYERS IN THE FIRST STRING WILL UNDERGO INTENSIVE TRAINING UNTIL SUMMER.
BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE NEXT MATCH, WE'LL DECIDE ON THE TWO PLAYERS TO PROMOTE TO THE FIRST STRING.
THE LAST MACTH?! ALREADY?!
DON'T BE TOO NERVOUS
LAST MATCH ...
HEARTBEAT
YOU'VE FINALLY ADMITTED TO YOUR SHORT-COMINGS AND HAVE BEEN TRAINING REALLY HARD.
CHRIS-SENPAI, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO PLAY IN THIS MATCH?
YOU'VE ALSO BEEN ANALYZING WAYS TO PITCH BETTER.
ALTHOUGH I MAY NOT HAVE IMPROVED MUCH IN THESE FEW DAYS..

I WANT TO FORM A BATTERY WITH CHRIS-SENPAI.
ぐっ
PLEASE BE MY CATCHER.

黒土館
青道
BOTH TEAMS LINE UP!
LET'S GO!!
GO!!
TOKYO

Ace of Diamond
黒土館
青道
一二三四五六七八九十
TEXT ON BOARD: TEAM KOKUSHIKAN SEIDOU
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
BOTH TEAMS LINE UP!
SHF
LET'S DO THIS!
YAAAAAH!!
TOKYO

SEIDOU'S
A
GROUNDS
WOOOOHHH!!
SEIDOU
(West
Tokyo)
vs
KOKU-
SHIKAN
(East
Tokyo)
ダイヤのA
エース
CHAPTER 27 / A GLIMPSE OF GREATNESS

ISN'T THIS THE SECOND STRING'S LAST MATCH?
JUST LOOK AT THE PLAYERS ...
COACH TAKAOKA SURE HAS GUTS!
SENDING THE SECOND STRING AGAINST EAST TOKYO'S KOKUSHIKAN HIGH ...
EVERYONE LOOKS FULL OF FIGHTING SPIRIT.
SFX: ALL AROUND: ROAR OF CROWD
THEY'RE FIGHTING FOR THE TWO REMAINING SPOTS IN THE FIRST STRING.
SFX: DUN DUN DUN
PLEASED TO MEET YOU!
EVERY-ONE BOW!

CAN THAT KID HOLD BACK KOKUSHIKAN'S BATTING LINEUP?
THEY'RE SENDING THAT KID OUT IN SUCH AN IMPORTANT MATCH!
DIDN'T HE PERFORM REALLY BADLY IN THE MATCH AGAINST KOMASHIRO?
青道
I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO MATCHING UP AGAINST THAT MONSTER PITCHER...
Pleased to meetcha!
WHY ISN'T FURUYA PITCHING?
DAMN IT...
CLINK
CLINK
HEY! SAWAMURA!
I'LL MAKE THEM REGRET SENDING THE SECOND STRING AGAINST US!!
THEY HAVEN'T MADE IT TO KOSHIEN IN FIVE YEARS BUT SEIDOU'S AS ARROGANT AS EVER!
黒土館
TOKYO

GULP
IF YOU THROW ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE DIRTY PITCHES, I'LL ASK COACH TO TAKE YOU OFF THE FIELD.
I'M ONLY GIVING YOU THREE CHANCES.
NO. 8 CATCHER
ONO HIROSHI (1st Year)
NO NEED TO BE SO LOUD. YOU'RE NOTHING BUT SPIRIT...
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ME!
I'll definitely do my best!
SENPAI HASN'T RECOVERED YET?
...
HAHAHA... WONDER WHAT THAT IDIOT WILL DO TO ENTERTAIN US TODAY!
SO LUCKY HE'S PLAYING
IF HE PLAYS BADLY, HE MAY NOT GET TO PLAY NEXT YEAR EITHER

I WANNA SEE HOW CHRIS-SENPAI WOULD LEAD SAWAMURA
I WANT TO FORM A BATTERY WITH CHRIS-SENPAI AT THIS MATCH!
PLEASE!
BE MY CATCHER!

NO MATTER WHAT. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE.
IT'S NOT UP TO ME TO DECIDE IF I PLAY IN THE MATCH...
EH?
MAKE THE MOST OF IT.
DON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS LATER...
SAWAMURA...
SFX: CLENCH

I'M GOING TO LET THEM HIT THE BALL!
THE REST IS UP TO YOU GUYS!!

SFX: ○○○○○○○

PLAY BALL!!
BEING HIT AND ALLOWING A HIT ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS
NO. 6 SHORTSTOP
NAKADA (2nd Year)
WHAT ARE YOU BLABBING ABOUT?!
NO. 5 FIRST BASEMAN
MAEZONO (2nd Year)
Smile
NO. 1 SECOND BASEMAN
KOMINATO (1st Year)

Pheeew
NO. 9 PITCHER
SAWAMURA (1st Year)

GULP

ALL I CAN ASK OF HIM IS TO PITCH THE BALL LOWER TO PREVENT SLUGS
SHF
SINCE HE ONLY PITCHES STRAIGHT BALLS...

SLIDE

I CAN'T PITCH FASTBALLS, NOR CURVE BALLS
SO I CAN ONLY DO AS CHRIS-SENPAI TOLD ME AND DO MY BEST WITH MY ABILITIES

THE RIGHT HAND FORMS A WALL...
SQUEEZE
CONCENTRATE THE BODY'S POWER TILL THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT.....
RELEASE IT IN ONE BREATH.....

WHA-!?

SFX: CLANG!!

AH?

WERE YOU EVEN LOOKING AT THE CATCHER'S MITT?!
ヒュッ
WAHAHAHA!!!
HEY NOW, STARTING OFF WITH SUCH A FORCEFUL PITCH!?
YOU MUST BE REALLY NERVOUS, FIRST YEAR BRAT!
SFX: CROWD'S JEERING
DON'T SEND SUCH A CRAPPY NOOBIE PITCHER!
GET OFF THE FIELD!
HIS LEFT WRIST IS HIDDEN BEHIND HIS BODY...
AND WHEN THERE'S NO WAY TO SEE HIS LEFT WRIST...
WHA... WHAT'S WITH THIS FORM?
.....
.....

THE BALL JUST SUDDENLY...
FLIES OUT!
SPIC BAM!
SPIC HAHAHAAA!
ヘイヘーイ
WHAT'S THE MATTER, PITCHER?
WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?
THIS GUY'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE LAST MATCH!!
THIS FEELS DIFFERENT COMPARED TO PRACTICING WITH THE TOWEL.
THIS IS BAD...

SQUEEZE
I MUST QUICKLY GET-BACK
THAT FEELING...
SFX: WHOOOOSH!
Te... Terrifying!
IT'S NOT BECAUSE THE BALL IS TOO FAST...
IT'S BECAUSE I CAN'T SEE THE POINT OF RELEASE
AND THE BALL FLIES OUT SO SUDDENLY THAT...

I CAN'T READ THE BALL'S TRAJECTORY------!
SFX: CRUCKLE
HEY, THAT FELT RIGHT!
CHATTER
CHATTER
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO PLAY IF THE BALLS ARE TOTALLY OFF COURSE?
WHAT'S THAT KID DOING?
HE'S BEEN GETTING WORSE SINCE THE LAST MATCH
GET OFF THE FIELD, YOU USELESS PITCHER!
Hyaaaaa...!
DON'T LOOK DOWN ON US!
LEARN HOW TO PITCH BEFORE YOU GET ON THE FIELD!
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

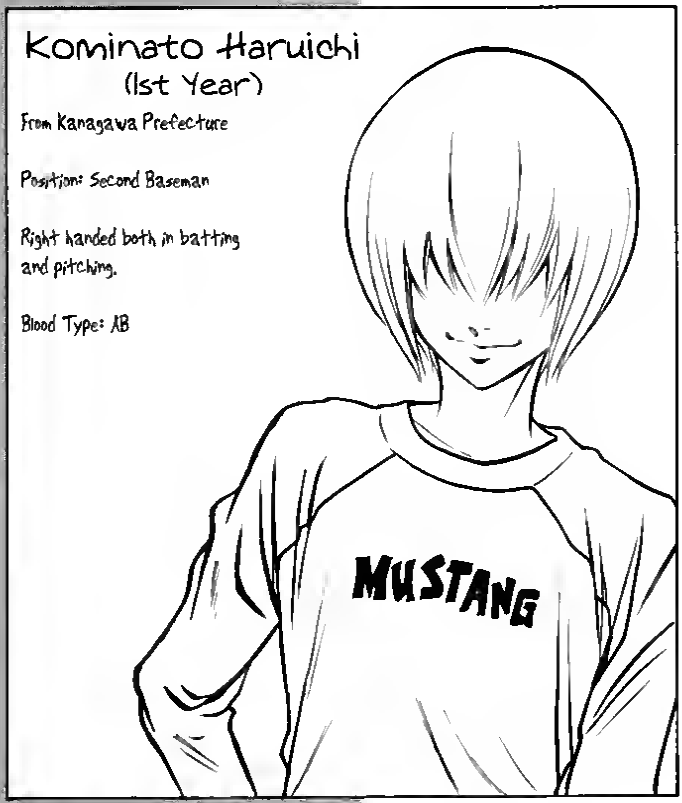
USING THE RIGHT HAND TO FORM A WALL ...
CONCENTRATING THE STRENGTH OF HIS BODY...
WHEN DID HE LEARN TO PITCH LIKE THAT?
EDITOR NOTE: HEHEE. THE COACH IS SWEATING. HE'S THE ONE WHO TAUGHT SAWAMURA THIS FORM. REMEMBER? CONFESS DUDE! CONFESS!
AND WHILE HE'S DOING THAT, HE RELEASES HIS LEFT WRIST SLOWLY....
AND MANAGE TO PITCH THE BALL NORMALLY WHILE HOLDING SUCH A DIFFICULT FORM.
IT MUST BE BECAUSE OF SAWAMURA'S FELXIBLE SHOULDERS.
I KNOW I ASKED HIM TO POLISH HIS OWN SPECIAL PITCH...
Ba-bump
BUT IN ONLY ONE WEEK?!

IT'S ONLY BEEN A WEEK AND THIS KID
MANAGED TO OBTAIN SUCH A WEAPON?
ドン
SFX: BA-BUMP
THE BOOK SAYS THAT A WALK AGAINST THE FIRST BATTER IS THE WORST POSSIBLE THING TO DO!
Grrrrrrrrrh!!
OH SHIT! THIS ISN'T GOOD!
SFX: CROWD CHEERING
BA-BUMP
UWAAAAA, A WALK!!
BALL FOUR!

I WANT TO FORM A BATTERY WITH CHRIS-SENPAI IN THIS MATCH
THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO CAN DRAW OUT THAT IDIOT'S LATENT ABILITIES ARE US CATCHERS!
CAN I CATCH THIS THIS GUY'S THROWS?
Huff
Huff
DAMMIT ... WHAT KIND OF PITCH IS THIS?
SFX. BA-BUMP BA-BUMP
ドゥン
ドゥン

SEIDOU PLAYER ENCYCLOPEDIA

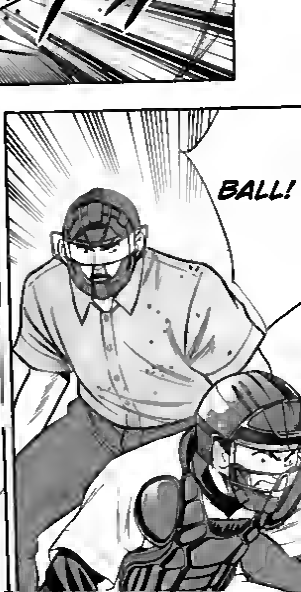
Vol.4



CHAPTER 28/ I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU

SFX ABOVE WAA WAA WAAAA
SFX BELOW BAM

NO, HE'S DEFINITELY NOT GOOD. THIS MATCH CAN'T BE DESCRIBED AS INTENSE.
MURMUR
MURMUR


BALL!

MURMUR
MURMUR
DOES THIS BRAT INTEND TO DESTROY THE ENTIRE GAME? TO THINK THAT WE EVEN MADE THE TRIP TO WATCH THIS GAME...

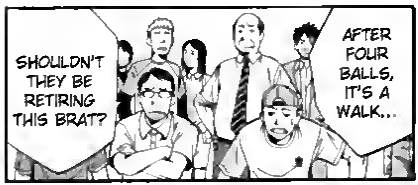
DAMN ... ONE MORE TIME ...
MURMUR
MURMUR
BUT HE'S STILL A RIDICULOUS PITCHER.
PHEW! LOOKS LIKE HE'S STILL CONCENTRATING
OKAY!
HEY! PITCH PROPERLY!
PITCH YOUR BEST, DON'T LEAVE BEHIND ANY REGRETS...
SAWAMURA...
DON'T PANIC...
JUST RELEASE ALL OF THE STRENGTH...
LIFT

I HAVE TO USE MORE STRENGTH...
SPEED....
THE WRIST...
AND..

SFX: WHOOOOOOSH

Gyaaa—!!

EVEN IF I WANTED TO AVOID IT, I COULDN'T MOVE!
DAMN YOU GUYS ARE SO NOISY!
SPK: WHACK!!
COULDN'T YOU HAVE AVOIDED THAT BALL?
HEY, SASAKI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?


SHOULDN'T THEY BE RETIRING THIS BRAT?
AFTER FOUR BALLS, IT'S A WALK...

WATCHING THE BALL FROM THE SIDELINES AND WATCHING IT FROM THE BATTER'S POSITION
IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT
SORRY
K

IF THIS GOES ON, HE COULD BE RETIRED...
EVEN THOUGH HIS PITCH IS MORE LIVELY COMPARED TO BEFORE,
S

WITH THAT UNREFINED PITCHING POSE, IT SHOULDN'T BE USED ON THE MOUND YET...
EVEN THOUGH THE BALL IS LIVELIER THAN BEFORE,
COACH... WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO?
EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T PITCH PROPERLY THIS TIME AROUND, WOULDN'T HE BE IN BETTER SHAPE IN THE NEXT GAME?
!
THAT KID IS TESTING OUT...
HOW TO GET AHOLD OF THE RIGHT FEELING FOR THIS PITCHING FORM.
...
...

PLEASE ALLOW HIM TO CONTINUE PITCHING ...
CHRIS ...
...
WHO MANAGED TO CONVERT THEIR INSTINCTS INTO A WEAPON.
I HAVE MET A FEW EXTRAORDINARY PITCHERS
WILL HE AWAKEN?
OR WILL HE CONTINUE TO FLOUNDER?

IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS, THE STRENGTH HE GAINED FROM PULLING THE TIRE...
NEVER GIVING UP; ALWAYS LOOKING FORWARD AND WORKING HARD...

THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE DESTINED TO AWAKE, WILL AWAKE EVEN AFTER A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME!

CHRIS...
YOU'VE BEEN HIS CATCHER FOR THE PAST MONTH...

ARE YOU ABLE TO BRING OUT HIS TALENT IN THIS MATCH?
COACH KATAOKA! WHAT ARE YOU SUG-GESTING?
CHRIS' SHOULDER IS INJURED,
AND HE HASN'T ATTENDED TRAINING FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR!
BESIDES, SAYING THIS IN FRONT OF EVERYONE, WOULDN'T IT BE UNFAIR TO THOSE WHO'VE BEEN TRAINING?
青道

I DID MENTION THAT CHRIS IS NOT TO PLAY, AND BECOME THE MANAGER INSTEAD.
BUT HE NEVER ONCE GAVE UP WANTING TO RETURN TO THE FIELD.
EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE AN ABNORMAL EXISTENCE IN THE TEAM,
EH?
THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO GET BACK ON THE FIELD...
WHETHER YOU GET ONTO THE FIELD WILL DEPEND ENTIRELY ON YOU!
MURMUR
MURMUR
TOKYO
BUT CHRIS

BEFORE CHRIS-SENPAI RETIRES,
I MUST LET HIM WITNESS MY GROWTH!
THAT KID IS WAITING FOR YOU AT THE PITCHING MOUND!
SFX: WAAA WAAAA

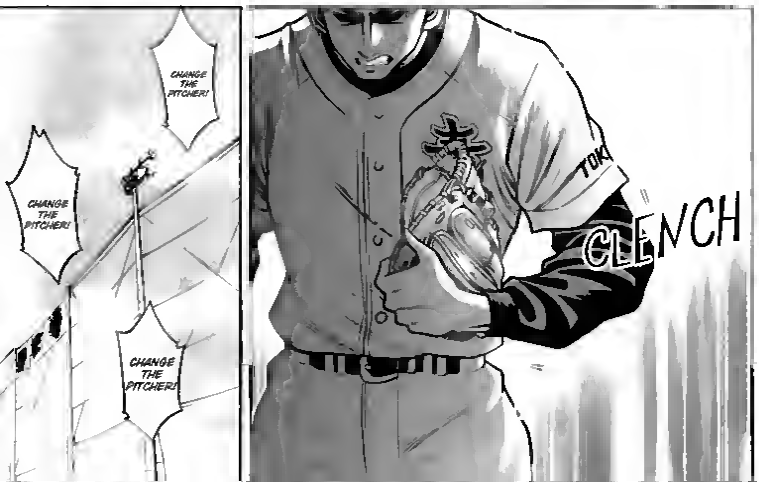
SHOCK
.....
SFX. WAAA WAAAAA
UGH... NO OUTS AND THE BASES ARE LOADED!
WHAT'S THAT PITCHER DOING?
NONE OF HIS PITCHES EVEN MADE IT TO THE STRIKE ZONE!

CHANGE THE PITCHER!
TIME OUT
SFX: WAAA WAAA
WE MADE A TRIP HERE TO CHEER ON SEIDOU HIGH!
NOT TO WATCH THIS LOUSY MATCH!
CHANGE THE PITCHER!
CHANGE THE PITCHER!
CHANGE THE PITCHER!
CHANGE THE PITCHER!

WHY ARE YOU STILL HESITATING? HURRY UP AND PUT ON YOUR GEAR!
YOU'VE ALREADY EARNED THE RIGHT TO GO ON THE FIELD!

!?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU OFF THE HOOK.
ARE YOU STILL THINKING ABOUT THOSE OF US WHO ARE UNABLE TO MAKE IT ONTO THE FIELD?
Heh
AND EVEN WHEN WE'RE DOWN, YOU'LL ALWAYS GIVE US ENCOURAGEMENT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS THINK OF YOU,
BUT EVERY SENIOR HERE KNOWS THAT YOU'RE ALWAYS WORKING HARD.
IF YOU STILL THINK OF YOURSELF AS PART OF THIS TEAM,
THUMP
THEN LIFT UP YOUR HEAD AND ENTER THE FIELD WITH PRIDE!

HURRY UP AND GET OUT THERE!
SHOW THOSE IGNORANT FIRST YEARS YOUR SKILLS!
YOU YOU GUYS


CHANGE THE PITCHER!
CHANGE THE PITCHER!
CHANGE THE PITCHER!
CLENCH

CHANGE THE PITCHER!
THE SPECTATORS JEERING IS GETTING LOUDER!
CHANGE THE PITCHER!
CHANGE THE PITCHER!
I MAY NOT BE FULFILLING MY ROLE AS CATCHER.
BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW HOW TO CONNECT HIS PITCHES
THAT'S RIGHT! IF WE CONTINUE LIKE THIS, WE'LL HAVE TO FORFEIT!
THAT'S WHY I TOLD HIM NOT TO PITCH FOOLISHLY!
That Idiot!
I WILL DEFINITELY SEAL THEIR BASELINE!
YOU DIDN'T EVEN PITCH ONE STRIKE; HOW ARE YOU GOING TO SEAL THEM?
WHAT?!
.....
SFX: WAAA WAAAA

OF COURSE IT IS!
ACK, IS IT ME!?
MURMUR
MURMUR
PLAYER SUBSTI-TUTE!
青道
STEP
CATCHER ONO COMING OFF...
HUH?

COMING IN IS TAKIKAWA.
S
青道
青道

MURMUR
MURMUR

EH?
ISN'T HE THE TEAM MANAGER?
HEY! THAT PERSON IS ON!

S
CHRIS-SEMPAI.

WHY IS HE SWITCHING IN SOMEONE WHO HASN'T PLAYED FOR A YEAR AT SUCH A CRUCIAL TIME?
IS COACH SERIOUS?

S
S
THAT PITCHER SHOULD BE SUBSTITUTED NO MATTER HOW YOU THINK ABOUT IT!

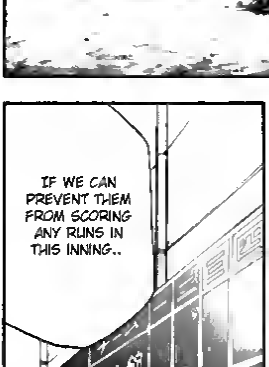
ダイヤのA エース

CHAPTER 29/ TRICK

THIS GUY'S CONTROL IS JUST... I CAN'T...
CHRIS-SAN!
I KNOW.
MUTTER
MUTTER
WE'VE BEEN KEEPING UP OUR DEFENSE WHEN THERE ARE RUNNERS ON THE BASES.
THE FACT THAT WE HAVEN'T CONCEDED A POINT UNTIL NOW HAS ALL BEEN BECAUSE OF YOU, ONO...
Y..YES!
I'LL LEARN ALL I CAN FROM YOU!!
JUST LEAVE IT TO ME NOW.

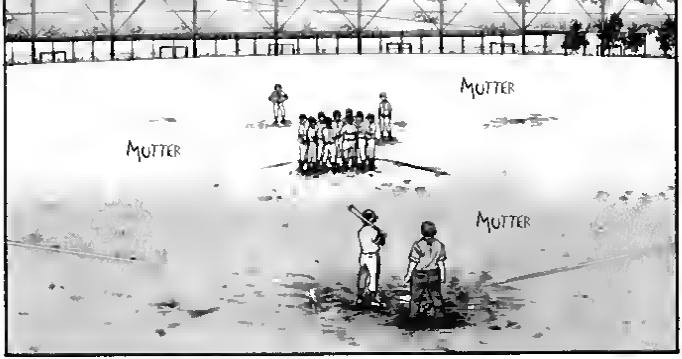
I DON'T MEAN ANY OFFENSE, BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE POINT OF CHANGING CATCHERS
HEY, DID THE COACH GIVE YOU ANY INSTRUCTIONS?

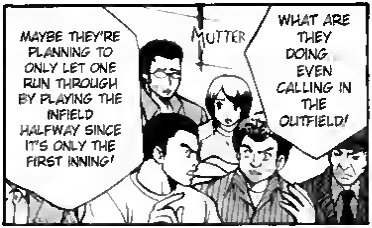
HUH?
BUT... THERE'S A CHANCE WE CAN TURN THIS AROUND
IT'S TRUE THAT THE STICKY SITATUATION WE'RE IN HASN'T CHANGED..


IF WE CAN PREVENT THEM FROM SCORING ANY RUNS IN THIS INNING..
青道

NO OUTS, BASES LOADED, AND WITH A PITCHER WHO CAN'T THROW STRIKES
THE OPPONENTS' BENCH SEEM RELAXED AND CONVINCED THAT THEY'LL SCORE A FEW POINTS

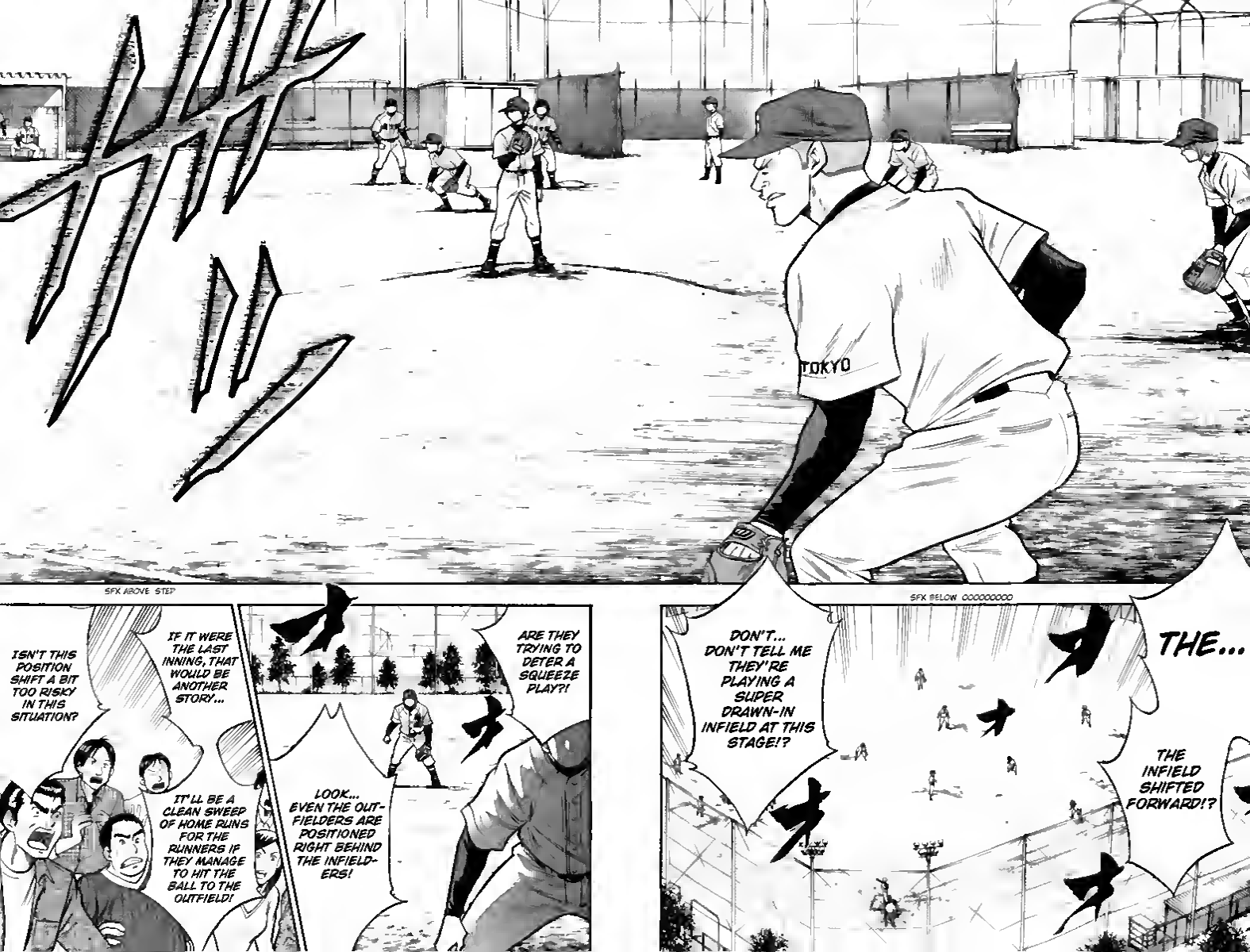
THIS PINCH WILL BE REVERSED.
THEY'LL BEGIN TO DOUBT THEMSELVES AND THEIR MORALE WILL SUFFER.
IF THIS GUY DOESN'T THROW STRIKES, THERE'S NO POINT!
B... BUT HOW?
I HAVE A PLAN.
GATHER CLOSER AROUND ME AND COVER YOUR MOUTHS WITH YOUR GLOVES




MAYBE THEY'RE PLANNING TO ONLY LET ONE RUN THROUGH BY PLAYING THE INFIELD HALFWAY SINCE IT'S ONLY THE FIRST INNING!
MUTTER
WHAT ARE THEY DOING EVEN CALLING IN THE OUTFIELD!

TN NOTE A DEFENSIVE POSITION WHERE RUNNERS FROM HOME CAN BE FORCED OUT WHILE KEEPING THE POSSIBILITY OF A DOUBLE PLAY

WHAT ON EARTH IS HE PLANNING...
HA HA HA HA HA!
I KNOW VERY WELL THAT THE RISKS ARE HIGH.
BUT... THIS PLAN NEEDS ALL OF YOU TO KEEP THIS GAME AT ZERO POINTS
THIS WOULD PUT CONSID-ERABLE PRESSURE ON THE DEFENSE~~
HEHE... BUT IT SOUNDS INTEREST-ING.
CAN YOU DO IT, SAWAMURA?
IT'S ALL UP TO YOU NOW.
MUTTER
YES!
EH?
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU'RE SO ENER-GETIC...


TOKYO
SFX ABOVE STEP
ISN'T THIS POSITION SHIFT A BIT TOO RISKY IN THIS SITUATION?
IF IT WERE THE LAST INNING, THAT WOULD BE ANOTHER STORY...
IT'LL BE A CLEAN SWEEP OF HOME RUNS FOR THE RUNNERS IF THEY MANAGE TO HIT THE BALL TO THE OUTFIELD!
ARE THEY TRYING TO DETER A SQUEEZE PLAY?!
LOOK... EVEN THE OUT-FIELDERS ARE POSITIONED RIGHT BEHIND THE INFIELD-ERS!
SFX BELOW OOOOOOOOO
DON'T... DON'T TELL ME THEY'RE PLAYING A SUPER DRAWN-IN INFIELD AT THIS STAGE!?
THE...
THE INFIELD SHIFTED FORWARD!?

I LEFT EVERYTHING TO CHRIS.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.

PLAYING THE INFIELD HALFWAY AND LETTING ONLY ONE POINT THROUGH VIA A DOUBLE PLAY WOULD BE BETTER...
W... WHAT IS THIS, COACH!?
IT'S STILL THE FIRST INNING!!

ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS RECKLESS AT FIRST... THIS COURSE OF ACTION MAKES SENSE.
COACH!

THIS IS CHRIS-KUN'S WAY...
OF MAKING FULL USE OF SAWAMURA'S UNIQUE ABILITIES.

DON'T THINK YOU CAN LOOK DOWN ON ME.
GRIND
GRGH!
DO YOU PUNKS THINK THAT I CAN'T HIT FAR BECAUSE I'M THE FOURTH BATTER?

S
WHEEEEW
FIRST, THE FIRST THROW...
I'LL WHACK IT TO THE MOON!
GRIND GRIND
IF YOU SEND ME A SOFT BALL...
USE THAT NEW PITCH YOU INVENTED
SHIFT
SHIFT
THE OPPONENT IS CLEARLY A CONFIDENT POWER HITTER.
I WILL DEFINITELY CATCH IT!
WHATEVER BALL COMES...
RUSTLE
DON'T WAVER.
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND THROW HARD!!
S
CLENCH

SFX NNNRRYYAAA — WHOA!

SFX SMACK
WHAT... THIS IS....
IT'S EVEN STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.

THE BALL BOUNCED AWAY!
WILL THE BATTER RUN?!
KRRRRT
SFX GLARE
URK!

WHOA... HE STOPPED HIM WITH JUST A GLANCE!!
WHAT A BALL...
Wheeeu
IT MAY HAVE BOUNCED, BUT IT LANDED RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM!
THAT CATCHER IS SOME-THING ELSE!
SFX THROUGHOUT PAGE: ROAR
AND ON TOP OF THAT, THEY'RE GETTING MORE ERRATIC THAN BEFORE...
HE PITCHES TOO FAST FOR THE EYE TO SEE...
NOD
BUT WITH THIS
WE'VE PLANTED THE TRA-JECTORY OF THE BALL INTO HIS MIND
...

FOR THE SECOND THROW...
STOP THE UNRELIABLE NEW PITCH FOR NOW..
YOUR BELOVED STRAIGHT-ON BATTLE.
AND THROW IT STRAIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE.
Ba-Bump
Ba-Bump
Ba-Bump
DON'T BE NERVOUS.
THIS IS A FINE WEAPON YOU HAVE HERE...

AFTER THAT, JUST LEAVE EVERYTHING TO THE FIELDERS
OORRRGGG
UUOOO
RUSTLE
GGGGGGHHH!
DON'T LOOK DOWN ON ME!
S...
STRAIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE...

SFX: WHOOOSH
CLUNK
AH... HE HIT THE BALL WITH THE TIP OF HIS BAT...
WHAT...!!
THE BALL'S PATH WAS SO DIFFERENT FROM JUST NOW...
THE RUNNERS ARE ALL OFF!!
SHIT!
BUT... THE BALL HAS FLOWN VERY HIGH!
ARE THEY GOING TO EXECUTE AN INGENIOUS PLAY ..?

SMACK
WHOOMP

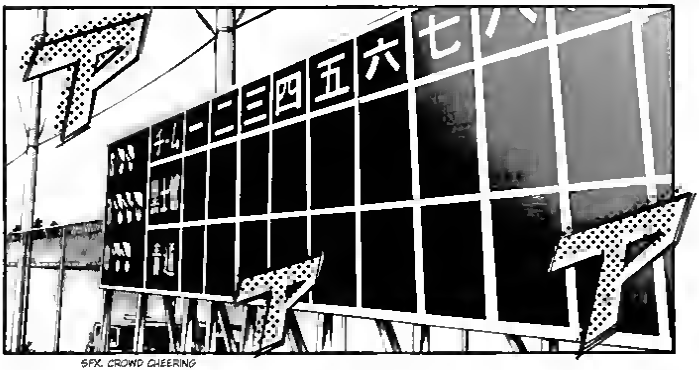
WHOA... HE CAUGHT AND THREW IT, WHILE IN MID-AIR!!
HE'S FORCED THE RUNNER TO HOME OUT!
HE'S SAVED THE SITU-ATION!
SFX: ROAR
EH?
SFX: WHIZZZ
BUT THE INFIELD-ERS ARE POSI-TIONED TOO CLOSELY!
THERE'S NO ONE AT FIRST BAS-

THE RIGHT FIELDER IS COVERING THE FIRST BASE?!
WHAT?!
SPLASH
WERE THEY AIMING FOR THIS FROM THE START?
I WAS REALLY SUR-PRISED BY THE PITCHER!
Whoooa!
FOR REAL?! A 4-2-9 HOME PLATE DOUBLE PLAY!?
JUST WHO IS THIS CATHCER!?
HE GOT THEM FROM NO OUTS, BASES LOADED TO TWO OUTS AND A MAN ON SECOND AND THIRD BASE...

CHRIS IS PLAYING FOR THE SECOND STRING TEAM RIGHT NOW!!
HEY!
Ace of Diamond
ARE YOU SERI-OUS!?
WHAT!?
LET'S GO SEE!!
Aim for Kohsen! A balanced play between body and mind.
OR... IS HIS SHOULDER OKAY?
OH? WHERE'S MIYUKI?
HA HA HA! IF HE'S BACK, YOUR REGULAR POSITION IS IN DANGER, ISN'T IT?

ダイヤのA エース

CHAPTER 30/ THREE CATCHERS



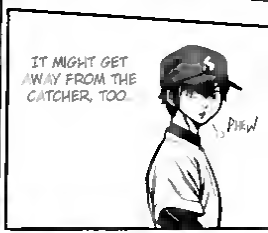
HOLY SHIT! WHAT WAS THAT PLAY!?
THE RIGHT FIELDER COVERED THE FIRST BASE!?
That's a pretty gutsy play
THAT TINY SECOND BASE PLAYER IS PRETTY GOOD TOO!!

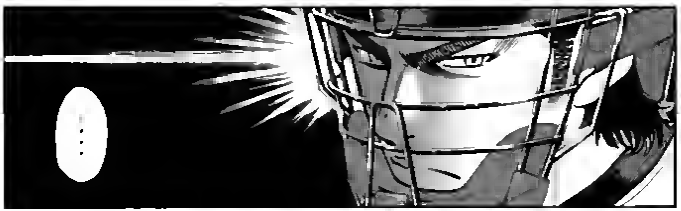
SFX: CROWD CHEERING

SHIT!
WHY DID HE PITCH RIGHT IN THE CENTER?
HEY, YOU GUYS! IT'S STILL OUR GAME!
UGH. THAT ONE PLAY CHANGED THE WHOLE GAME ..
IGNORE ANY BALLS. JUST AIM FOR EASY PITCHES!

SKOOT
SKOOT
ANY CHANCE I CAN GET, I'LL GET BACK TO THE HOME PLATE!!

K
YEAH... THAT PITCHER THROWS ALL OVER THE PLACE...


IT MIGHT GET AWAY FROM THE CATCHER, TOO.
PHEW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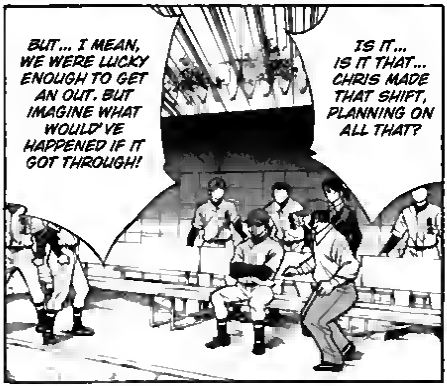
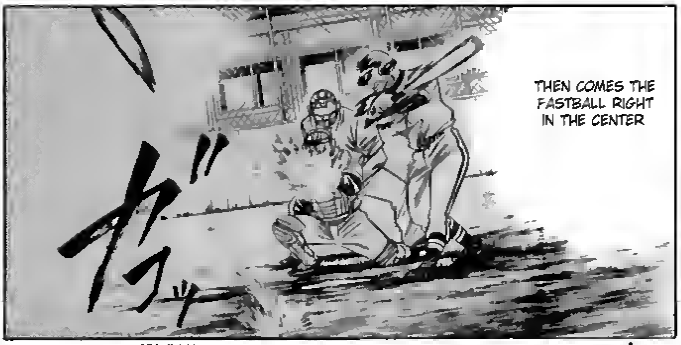

BUT... I MEAN, WE WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO GET AN OUT. BUT IMAGINE WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED IF IT GOT THROUGH!
IS IT... IS IT THAT... CHRIS MADE THAT SHIFT, PLANNING ON ALL THAT?

HE THEN MADE A STRONG IMPRESSION USING A PITCH WITH A LIMITED VISION.
WITH A PROVOCATIVE FORWARD DEFENSE, HE MADE THE OFFENSE NERVOUS.


THEN COMES THE FASTBALL RIGHT IN THE CENTER
カン!

SFX. CLANK

THIS PLAY WAS NOT BASED ON LUCK AT ALL.
!
SECOND AND THIRD PLOTS TO THE SIDE
AND THE OUTFIELDERS RESPONDED TO THE SHIFT.

SFX. SWISH!
WHOA!
UGH!
SFX. CHEERING
A SUPER-FAST PICKOFF FOR A RUNNER WHO WAS TRYING TO LEAD OFF TO THE HOME PLATE!
THE RUNNER COULDN'T GET BACK!!

HE BROKE THROUGH THE LOADED BASES WITH NO OUTS!
EVERYTHING CHANGED THE MINUTE THAT CATCHER CAME ON!
SFX CROWD CHEERING
THIS GUY DID HE REALLY INJURE HIS SHOULDER?
WHAT IS THIS GUY!?
I DIDN'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING!
AWESOME!! THAT WAS AWESOME!!
CHRIS-SENPAI, YOU CAN TOTALLY THROW!

BEING OUT OF THE GAME MEANS NOTHING TO HIM!
THIS IS A PLAY BY SOMEONE WHO WAS OUT FOR A YEAR?
SFX: CHEERING

HA HA HA!
HA HA!

WHY IS HE PLAYING FOR THE SECOND-STRING?
INCRE-DIBLE

GOOD STUFF AS USUAL, CHRIS-SENPAI!

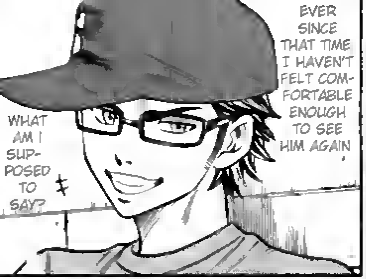
CHEER
CHEER
CHEER
MIYUKI-KUN
GRUNT
GRUNT
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN A SECOND-STRING GAME.
HUFF
AREN'T YOU GOING TO SEE THE GAME?
...
CLANK
1ST STRING, 2ND CATCHER
MIYAUCHI KEISUKE (3rd Year)

DON'T READ MY MIND WITHOUT PERMISSION
...
Huff
HA HA! YOU DON'T WANT ANY MORE RIVALS, RIGHT?
青道
A SHADOW QUICKLY COMING UP FROM BEHIND..
SFX. CLANK
SFX. ROAR
BOUNCE
THOSE ARE REALLY SCARY...

IT'S OFF! A HIT TO THE CENTER!
THE FIRST BATTER TOTALLY GOT THIS GAME!
WHILE THE ENEMY IS PANICKING AFTER LOOSING A SCORING CHANCE, HE HITS THE FIRST PITCH!

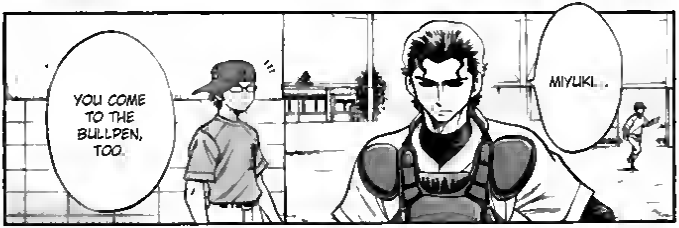
THAT DEFENSIVE PLAY AND NOW THIS! ARE YOU ACTUALLY SUPER AWESOME!?
WHOA! HE HITS AGAIN!!
TN: ADDING "CCHI" AT THE END OF SOMEONE'S NAME IS A COMMON WAY OF CREATING
WHAT ARE YOU CHEERING LIKE A FAN FOR?
YOU KICK ASS! HARU-CCHI!
Haru-cchi?
SO COOL!
THAT BOY...

GET IN THE BULLPEN QUICKLY!
There's no time to rest.
YOU HAVEN'T MASTERED THE NEW FORM YET, HAVE YOU?
That's right!
AH!
HA HA HA! THERE SURE IS A HUGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT YOU'VE GAINED DURING PRACTICE AND A REAL GAME.
LEARN LOTS, ALL RIGHT, SAWAMURA!
PLEASE! I CAN'T GET A STRIKE NO MATTER WHAT I TRY!
Please!
YOU TOTALLY FORGOT IT, DIDN'T YOU?
SMIRK


EVER SINCE THAT TIME I HAVEN'T FELT COMFORTABLE ENOUGH TO SEE HIM AGAIN.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY?

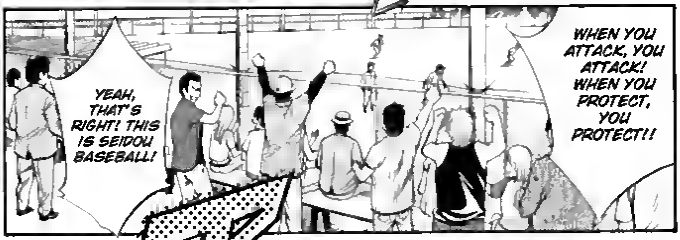
...
Ugh...

HEY, YOU!
Later
UMM... I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A GAME SO...


YOU COME TO THE BULLPEN, TOO.
!!
MIYUKI...

...
SEE WHAT?
YOU'LL GET TO SEE SOMETHING INTERESTING.

THEY AREN'T PLAYING SAFE!
RUNNER MOVES TO SECOND BASE!
SFX: CROWD CHEERING
SFX: CLANG


YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT! THIS IS SEIDOU BASEBALL!
WHEN YOU ATTACK, YOU ATTACK! WHEN YOU PROTECT, YOU PROTECT!!

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING WHEN YOU PITCH YOUR NEW FORM?
EVEN JUST A FEELING. TELL ME

WHAT I THINK? UMMM..
A WALL ON THE RIGHT HAND? MAYBE?

THAT FELT KINDA RIGHT.
CRUSH
SO I SORT OF TRY TO CRUSH THE GLOVE WHEN I PITCH.
BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE A WALL.
A WALL ON THE RIGHT HAND?
...I SEE.
REALLY?
ONCE YOUR BODY GETS USED TO IT, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO GET A STRIKE WITH IT.
BUT RIGHT NOW, YOU CAN'T REALLY CONTROL IT, CAN YOU?
BUT BECAUSE YOU ARE FOCUSING SO MUCH ON THE WALL, YOUR RIGHT FOOT IS SHIFTED TOWARD INSIDE TOO MUCH.
INSIDE
BY FOCUSING ON YOUR RIGHT HAND, YOU INCREASED THE TORQUE IN YOUR BODY AND IN TURN, INCREASED THE POWER OF YOUR PITCH.

WHILE YOU FOCUS ON THE WALL ON THE RIGHT HAND,
STEP YOUR RIGHT FOOT SO IT LINES UP WITH THE HOME PLATE.
!
WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME START PITCHING!
LINE UP MY RIGHT FOOT WITH THE HOME PLATE...

WATCH CAREFULLY, MIYUKI...
...
SWISH
I FEEL NERVOUS WITH THESE TWO WATCHING ME.
UHH~~~

LINE UP THE RIGHT FOOT WITH THE HOME PLATE.
SFX. STEP

THE LEFT HAND IS TOO SLOW...
WHOA!

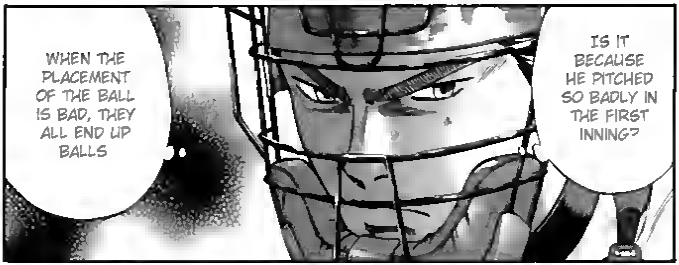
SFX. ZOOOM!
TH..
THIS IS...

SPK SMACK!
WHOAAA! IT'S A STRIKE!!
HMMM... CLOSE BUT IT WAS A BALL I THINK...
Shiver

Chapter 31 - Last Official Match

ONE OUT, AND RUNNERS ON SECOND AND THIRD...
S
B
O
チーム
一
二
黒土館
0
青進
2
ALTHOUGH WE'RE AHEAD, THANKS TO THE HARD-EARNED POINTS FROM THE SACRIFICIAL FLY AND RBI HIT, WE'RE STILL IN A PINCH.
THAT PITCHER'S STILL NERVOUS.
SFX: SMACK!
パーン!

SFX RAGING FIRE
ズゴゴゴ
SA...
WA...
MU...
RA...
BALL!


WHEN THE PLACEMENT OF THE BALL IS BAD, THEY ALL END UP BALLS
IS IT BECAUSE HE PITCHED SO BADLY IN THE FIRST INNING?

I CAN'T SEEM TO CATCH THE TIMING OF HIS PITCHES...

GOOD JOB! DON'T SWING AT THE BALLS!
WAIT FOR A BAD PITCH AND HIT IT OUT OF THE PARK!

I MAY COME UNDER PRES-SURE
IF I DON'T SWING EARLY,

SFX: EXPLOSIVE
HERE IT COMES!
RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE!!
LET'S FINISH YOU OFF...

SFX: CLANG!
K
SSK
LEAVE IT TO ME!
NO WORRIES!
THE BALL MOVED..
WHAT!

QUICK! THROW IT TO FIRST BASE!
DAMMIT!
SFX. BANG
YES, SIR!
YOU IDIOT! DON'T GET CARELESS!! THERE ARE STILL TWO RUNNERS ON BASE!
WOW!! TWO OUTS ALREADY!
HIS PITCHING IS IMPROVING GRADUALLY THERE ARE FEWER SOLID HITS NOW.

WHAT'S MORE, HE'S USING THE MOVING BALL, WHICH IS RARELY SEEN IN JAPAN...
SERIOUSLY! THAT CRAZY BOY'S THE STARTING PITCHER?
OH MY GOD.*
*TN "OH MY GOD." IS SAID IN ENGLISH
THE COMEDIAN WHO'S NOT VERY GOOD AT JAPANESE? WHY IS HE HERE?
Who?
WAHH! THAT'S ANIMAL!
ANIMAL, THE PERFORMER?
I MEAN... HE'S HUGE!

ANIMAL
ANIMAL
ANIMAL GAN! PLEASE LET ME HAVE AN AUTO-GRAPH!
WH... WHO IS THE COMEDIAN?
ME, A BASEBALL PLAYER, OK!*
*TN: HE SPEAKS BROKEN JAPANESE
!!
YU... YUU...
DAD... YOU CAME...
I~I ALREADY HAD A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
WHY ARE YOU PLAYING?!
THIS SCHOOL IS REALLY TRYING TO RUIN MY SON!!
OI! YUU!!

LET'S DESTROY THEM!!
THE MATCH IS JUST BEGINN-ING!
YUU...
WHY ARE YOU...
....

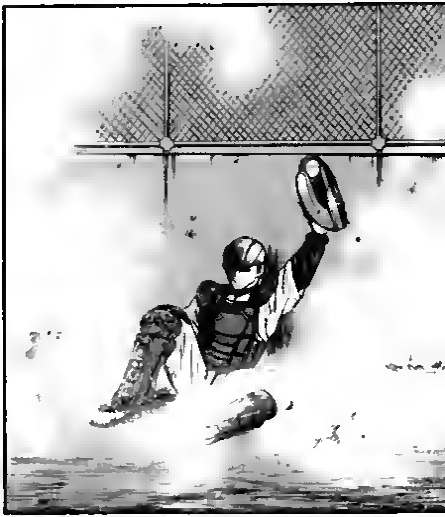
HA HA HA HA!
SO, CHRIS SENPAI CAN ALSO SHOUT SO LOUDLY,
BUT YOUR VOICE BROKE A LITTLE.
SHUT UP!
YOUR JOB IS JUST TO PITCH THE BALL INTO THE MITT!
YES! YES!
STOP JOKING AROUND !!
HOW COULD WE HAVE MISSED OUT ON THE CHANCE TO SCORE IN THE LAST TWO INNINGS?!
I HAVE TEAMMATES WHO ARE HELPING ME DEFEND THE FIELD,
SO I JUST HAVE TO CONCENTRATE ALL MY EFFORTS...
I'LL HIT THIS CRAPPY PITCHER OFF THE MOUND IN NO TIME!

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS PITCH INTO CHRIS SENPAI'S MITT!
SFX: CLANG!
OH!
AT THAT TYPE OF BALL?
WHAT! I SWING TOO LATE!

IS THE CATCHER GOING AFTER THAT BALL?
I BROKE MY PROMISE I'M SORRY
DAD...
I HOPE YOU CAN COME AND WATCH THIS MATCH...
EVEN IF I DON'T GET TO PLAY...
THE SECOND STRING.. IN FACT A PRACTICE MATCH..
BECAUSE FOR ME...

THIS IS
MY LAST
OFFICIAL
MATCH—!
TOKYO

SFX : SMASH!
S

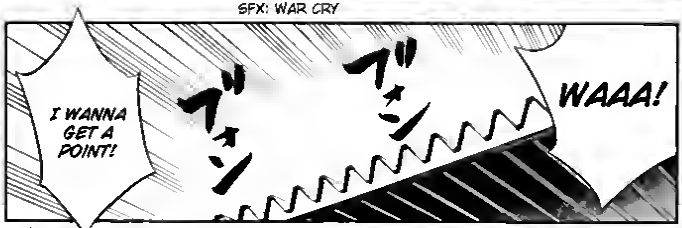


HE GOT IT!
HE DIDN'T HESITATE DESPITE ALMOST HITTING THE FENCE!
ISN'T HE AFRAID OF GETTING INJURED?
CHRIS SENPAI?
ARE YOU OK?
I'M NOT AS WEAK AS YOU THINK!
nod
DON'T WORRY!

AFTER ONE YEAR OFF THE FIELD, HE'S STILL SO RECKLESS.
HAHA... HE'S STILL THE SAME.
YOU REALLY SCARED ME...
REALLY!
LEADING THE TEAM WITH THE AIM TO WIN...
GIVING ALL HE'S GOT JUST TO GET A RUNNER OUT...
...
THAT'S CHRIS-SENPAI'S STYLE OF BASEBALL...

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS! THIS IS MY LIFE! BESIDES, I CAN'T SLEEP IF I DON'T PRACTICE.
HEY! ANIMAL! STOP BATTING ALREADY, WE HAVE A MATCH TOMORROW.

SFX: WAR CRY



SFX CLANG!

カキーン
おりゃー
I WANT TO TRANSFER THIS BURNING PASSION TO THE BAT...
IF YOU TRY TO FORCE IT, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO BAT.
EIJUN-KUN, RELAX... RELAX!!

HE HIT IT!
THE BALL IS BLAZING TOWARDS THE LEFT FIELD!

SOB... CHRIS-SENPAI MADE A HIT FOR MY SAKE!
IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF YOU!
Chris-senpai!

CHRIS!
RISE UP TO THE FIRST STRING...
Continued in Volume 5

HAHA... THAT GUY...
HIS BATTING HASN'T DE-TERIORATED EITHER!

RISING TO THE ONLY TWO REMAINING SPOTS IN THE FIRST STRING...

久しぶりにチームメイトと会い
高校時代の思い出話‥‥。

すでに美化されていた自分の過去が
どんどんリアルに思い出されてくる（汗）。
当時はがんばってたよ！
そりゃあもう勉強なんかほとんどせずに。

けど‥‥、ああ‥‥
やっぱりそうか‥‥。

俺達は弱かった‥‥。

寺嶋裕二

ーSTAFFー
栗栖正義
山田聡子
米澤孝知
河端美穂子

ーEDITORー
KIICHIRO SUGAWARA
MASAKATSU MINO
SHUJI SATO

あなたは、この本を読んで、どのような感想をおもちになりましたか。

このほかに、「講談社コミックス」の中で、どんな本を読まれましたか。

このつぎには、どんな作家の、どんなまんがを読みたいとお考えですか。

コミックス編集の参考にさせていただきたいと思います。「読後の感想」と合わせて、左記のところあてにお知らせください。

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みんなの前で監督に言われた一言……
「どうして打てないか分かるか？」
「……いえ……」
「お前は授業中寝てばかりいるからだ――
ガ――ン!!（な…なぜ今それを…

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さらに上を目指し、三年生キャッチャー[illegible]とともに
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